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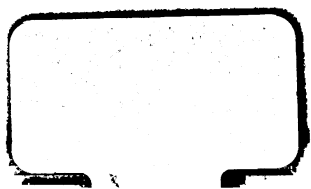
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Hillsborough
Smith

1841

ANNALS

OF THE

TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH,

Hillsborough County, N. H.

From its first Settlement

TO THE YEAR 1841.

By Charles James Smith.

Sandbornton, N. H.

Printed by J. C. Wilson.

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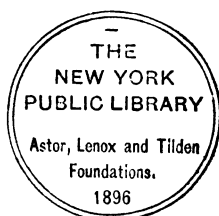
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1841.

THE substance of the following historical sketch, was delivered by appointment, before the HILLSBOROUGH LYCEUM, March 10, 1841. At the request of many individuals it has been altered for publication to a style more adapted to historical narration, and considerable addition has been made thereto. The Author regrets that a pressure of other occupations, prevented his bestowing the time, and attention upon the subject, which might have rendered it more worthy of the acceptance, of those interested in the work. It is believed however, that every thing herein stated, may be relied upon as authentic ; as it has been an object of the writer, to give it accuracy.



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ANNALS OF HILLSBOROUGH.

HILLSBOROUGH is situated in the northwest corner of the county of Hillsborough in latitude $43^{\circ} 9'$ north. It is bounded on the north by Bradford, on the east by Henniker, on the south by Deering and Antrim and on the west by Windsor and Washington. It is the most northerly town in Hillsborough county, adjoining the counties of Merrimack and Sullivan, and is separated from the county of Cheshire only by the small town of Windsor on the west. The centre of the town is about equi-distant from the shire towns of Hillsborough, Merrimack, Sullivan, and Cheshire counties. Its shape is nearly that of a diamond, being six miles square, and containing by estimation 27,320 acres. The town is well watered and it is belived, better irrigated than any other in the county of Hillsborough. The south and principal branch of Contoocook river, having its origin at the base of the Grand Monadnock mountain in the County of Cheshire, enters the town on the south line, near the corners of Antrim and Deering, where it receives the North Branch of the same. The North Branch of the Contoocook, has its rise from Horse-shoe pond on the west side of Lovell's mountain, in Washington; thence running southerly into Stoddard, forms Long Pond in that town after which it takes a north-easterly course and pursues its way through the north part of Antrim into Hillsborough, and after running nearly four miles in the south part of the town (in which distance it receives the waters of Hillsborough river,) joins the main stream or south branch of the Contoocook on the south line of the town near the corners of Antrim and Deer-

ing. After their confluence the Contoocook meanders through the south eastern part of the town into Hemiker.

The Hillsborough river is composed of several branches, the largest and principal of which rises in the eastern part of Washington, enters Hillsborough on its northern border, after which it courses diagonally seven miles through its whole extent and joins the northern branch of the Contoocook on the southern limit of the town. A considerable branch from the west unites with the main stream in Symonds's interval. This branch is formed by several lesser branches one of which issues from Black Pond in Windsor and passes through the Upper village on the turnpike. Another has its source from a pond in Stoddard. These unite a little east of the Upper village, and pass into the main branch as before described. Another small tributary originates near Willson's Mineral Spring in the west part of Bradford and discharges itself into the main stream in the north part of the town. A large number of small brooks and rivulets intersect in the town. The Contoocook and Hillsborough rivers, with their several branches, in their progress through the town, afford many excellent mill seats and water privileges which are improved to a considerable degree, though by no means to the full extent of their capacity.

There are three natural ponds. The largest body of water is Loon Pond which lies a little northwest of the centre of the town, thus named from its being inhabited by Loons in the warm season. It is one mile in length, and two thirds of a mile wide; and has two outlets one of which flows into Hillsborough river, the other into Contention pond. It is a very picturesque sheet of water, and is plentifully stocked with a variety of excellent fish. Its waters are transparent and pure; and during the winter season are frozen—presenting a beautiful icy expansion. There are two other ponds of considerable magnitude, Contention Pond and Campbell's Pond. Contention Pond is situated a short distance northwest of Loon Pond and is so called from a contention among the early proprietors concerning the boundaries. It has an outlet which falls into Hillsborough river. Campbell's pond lies in the southeast part of the town. It derives its name from the late Daniel Campbell, Esq. of Amherst, who first discov-

ered it. These ponds are much frequented by fishing parties, and together make a surface of five hundred acres of water.

There is no very remarkable elevation of land in the town though there are many fine eminences, from whose summits extensive views of the surrounding country may be had. Stow's mountain, (the only hill in town whose altitude will permit it to assume the name) in the northwest part, is the highest point of land in Hillsborough. This mountain derives its name from the late Dea. Joel Stow who occupied a farm on its southeastern slope, nearly half a century. The highest inhabited land is the site of the domicil of Mr. Justus Pike, on the eastern declivity of the above mentioned mountain. The lowest, is believed to be on the south side of the Contoocook, a few rods below Hillsborough Bridge. The surface of the town is uneven, being greatly diversified by hills and dales. It has a rugged yet, in general strong and productive soil. It is suitably divided into tillage and pasturage, and is principally of a deep gravelly loam, favorable for grass and all kinds of English grain. Every description of forest tree common in New Hampshire is found here in greater or less abundance. The most prevalent are the hemlock, beech, elm, spruce and ash, and the different varieties of the oak, maple, pine, birch and cherry. The lofty and noble white pine formerly abounded in great luxuriance upon the low ground on the banks of the rivers, but has principally been cut away for timber.

Considerable quantities of granite are sprinkled in detached blocks, on the highlands which though not of the most beautiful texture is wrought into hearth and door stones and is used in underpinning buildings, in the erection of bridges, and for various other architectural purposes. The second New Hampshire turnpike road, completed in 1801, leading from Claremont to Amherst, passes through the west part of the town in a northwesterly direction. It has a course of about four miles in the town. There are four villages in Hillsborough which are thus designated. Hillsborough Centre, Hillsborough Bridge, the Upper village, and the Lower village. The centre village stands on a hill a little southeast of the exact centre of the town. It is a small village containing but ten dwelling houses,

most of which are large and valuable. Here are two Meeting houses. The old Meeting house as it is most commonly styled is the property of the town and is now used almost exclusively as a town house. It is a spacious structure without steeple or bell. The exterior of the body of the house is painted white, the roof red. It is visible (from its lofty site) at a great distance, and presents a goodly specimen of the style of church architecture prevalent in New England half a century since. Hallowed associations cluster around this venerable time-worn edifice. We are reminded of the fathers of the hamlet so many of them now slumbering in the dust, who have gone up there through many successive years, to listen to the oracles of the most High, as they have been expounded by those holy men, who from time to time have ministered at its altar,—of those who have so often mingled in the primary political assemblies, convoked, within its walls. What recollections must be awakened, in the minds of those who have been intimately conversant with the history of the town for the last fifty years, as they gaze upon it and call to remembrance so many of their cotemporaries now at rest in the grave, who have figured there.

The new Congregational church erected in 1839 at an expense of \$2400, exclusive of the bell, stands close by the old sanctuary. It is a neat and elegant house, constructed of wood, painted white, with green Venetian window blinds, and is surmounted by a beautiful tower. In this tower is suspended a powerful, and fine toned bell ; one of the best in the state, which can be heard distinctly in any part of the town. Enoch Train, Esq. of Boston, Mass., who was bred in the town and has ever taken a lively interest in its prosperity, contributed very liberally to the purchase of this bell.

At the north end of this village, within the shade of venerable elms, and fronted by a green lawn, stands the stately dwelling of the first minister of the town, now in the possession of his descendants. This village has been the seat of a high school, which has been kept in the autumn for several years past in the vestry, a little east of the Meeting houses. The commanding elevation on which this village is situated, overlooks a wide expanse of country ; which presents a

magnificent landscape of variegated scenery, peculiar to this region. The beautiful and romantic village of Hillsborough Bridge is very pleasantly located on both sides of the Contoocook river, which is crossed here by an elegant and substantial arched granite bridge, which gives the village its name. It is three miles southeast of the centre village, and near the northern line of Deering. The Contoocook by two falls of considerable extent, supplies this village with a valuable water power. There are a number of excellent sites for mills and factories, several of which are occupied. The main body of the village is built upon two bluffs, which rise on both sides of the river, to the height of seventy or eighty feet above the bed of the stream. At the lower fall by the bridge, the Contoocook is compressed within the distance of a single span, and the cascade of water makes a sublime appearance as seen from below, through the arch of the bridge. The mills, factories, and a number of dwellings are located in the river valley. This village is the seat of considerable business, mercantile and manufacturing.

There are fifty-six dwelling houses, two churches, three stores, two hotels, two cotton factories, two grist mills, two saw mills, two shoe stores, one trip-hammer and axe manufactory, one lawyer, one physician, a post office, &c. Many of the dwellings are handsome, especially those of recent construction and a number of them exhibit, much neatness, and taste, in their architecture, yet the beauty of the village is considerably diminished by the irregularity in the arrangement of its buildings, and the narrowness of its streets. Both Meeting houses are on the north side of the river, which is much the most populous part of the village. That connected with the Congregational church, is very handsomely situated, northwest of the compact portion of the village. It was erected in 1836, at an expense of \$3300. It is an elegant and commodious structure, of the Tuscan order of architecture with a good bell. The Methodist church is a neat and convenient edifice, and stands at the northern extremity of the village on the centre road. Here are two cotton factories and one woollen factory. The cotton factory on the north side of the river was built in 1811, and contains 1800 spindles, and 40 looms.

The number of operatives employed here is about 60. Marcy's Cotton Factory on the south side of the Contoocook is occupied in the manufacture of cotton yarn, wicking, &c. It contains 512 spindles and employs about 16 operatives. This establishment was constructed in 1828. This village is the centre of trade for a considerable extent of country around it ; and the great power for machinery, furnished by the falls of the Contoocook here, augurs well, for its future growth and prosperity. It is one of the most flourishing villages in this section of the state and has increased three fold within the last twelve years, for which it is much indebted to the enterprise, and perseverance, of Capt. Caleb Cook, agent of the north cotton factory, and Mr. Joshua Marcy proprietor of the south factory.

The Lower village stands principally on a gentle swell of land, two and a half miles northwest of the Bridge and the same distance southwest of the Centre village. It lies on both sides of the second New Hampshire Turnpike road, and contains an academy building of brick, two taverns, one store, sixteen dwelling houses, a lawyer's office, a post office, &c. The elegant mansion of the late Governor Pierce now the property of Gen. John McNeil, stands at the northern extremity of this village.

To the north of the Lower village, on the turnpike road is a Meeting house, with a bell attached to it, built in 1828, for the use of the Baptist society of the town. The Upper village on the turnpike, is one mile and a half northwest of the Lower village, and three miles west of the Centre village. It is a pleasant street embracing twenty two dwellings, one tavern, two stores, a number of mechanics, &c. A branch of the Hillsborough river passes through this village affording it a good water power which is improved by several establishments for the manufacture of carriages, furniture, &c.

There are three lines of stages, which pass through the town. The line from Nashua to Claremont, N. H., Windsor and Burlington, Vt., passes through the town, on the turnpike daily. Also, the line from Nashua through Francestown to Hillsborough Upper village passes daily through Hillsborough Bridge, and the Lower village to the Upper village where it terminates. The line from Concord to Keene,

thence through Brattleborough, Vt. to Troy, N. Y., passes daily through the Bridge village and the Lower village. All these lines transport the U.S. Mail. Hillsborough contains five churches, five hotels, six stores, two cotton factories, one woollen factory, two fulling mills, seven saw mills three grist mills, five tanneries, one starch factory, three post offices, seventeen school houses, two lawyers, three physicians, &c. The total annual value of the manufactures of the town, is about \$40,000. Amount of capital invested \$55,000. The essential interest of the town is agricultural, and a majority of the inhabitants are engaged in the pursuits of husbandry. Nashua, Lowell, and Boston, are the principal marts for the exports of the town. The population in June, 1840, was 1808.

The first settlement in Hillsborough was commenced in 1741. In that year, a company of men having associated for the purpose, made their way from the vicinity of Boston, through the dense and pathless forest, which then covered nearly the entire surface of the present county of Hillsborough, and laid an encampment within the limits of this town. The province of Massachusetts exercised jurisdiction over this section of New Hampshire until the year 1741, when the present boundary line between the two provinces was settled by a royal decision. This town had been previously granted by the government of Massachusetts, to Col. John Hill, and ——— Keyes, both of Boston, who had employed a surveyor, to parcel it into lots. It may be proper, before we proceed farther, to glance for a moment, at the state of this section of New Hampshire at that period. One hundred years ago, the country for many miles around, was a dreary wilderness; the untutored savage roamed in undisturbed security, through the thick forests, or glided in his light canoe over the lonely silent waters. Every variety of forest tree indigenous to New England covered the soil. The forests were alive with every species of wild game. The waters abounded with salmon trout and pickerel, and other specimens of the finny tribes, delightful to the palate. The whole northern and western part of the present county of Hillsborough, was then an unbroken solitude, untrodden by civilized man—wild and uncultivated as when it came from its creator's hand. Slight openings in the for-

est had been effected at New Boston, and at Peterborough. The settlements in these towns were nearly coeval with that of Hillsborough. "A line drawn from Rochester and Berrington to Boscawen and Concord, thence through Hopkinton, Hillsborough, and Peterborough," to Keene, Swanzey, Winchester, and Hinsdale, then constituted the frontier line. The whole region north of it, with the exception of small openings at Westmoreland, and Charlestown, "occupied by a few families, was a gloomy forest, a fit lurking place for savages." In 1744, a war broke out between England, and France, known as the Cape Breton war, so called from the reduction of Louisburg, on that island, in 1745, by the famous expedition from the New England colonies. The Indians from the northwestern frontiers who were in the interest of the French, embraced this opportunity to spread devastation, and death among the people who dwelt upon the borders, regarding their encroachments, and increase, with distrust and alarm. The residents of the frontier plantations were accustomed in those days of peril, to fortify one private house in each settlement, by inclosing it with a palisade, made by inserting sharpened stakes of timber in the ground, to which all the inhabitants retired for safety. The savage foe lurked in ambush in the deep recesses of the forest, sallying forth to desolate their fields, destroy their cattle, burn their dwellings, and butcher, or lead captive the inhabitants. "The husbandman cleared and tilled his land under the protection of a guard, uncertain whether the seed he committed to the ground, might be watered by his blood, or that of an enemy." The following extract from a ballad written in commemoration of those days of Indian incursion, will convey some idea of the dangers, which beset the early borderers in 1746, which was two years after the commencement of hostilities, and the year in which the first settlers of Hillsborough deserted their clearings.

"England and France a cruel war
Had with each other waged ;
Wo to the colonies ! for there
Its bloodiest contests raged.

The fierce Canadians (Frenchmen they)
Had set the Indians on ;
'Twas sad to see for many a day,
The mischief that was done.

Houses were burnt, and cattle slain,
And smiling fields laid waste :
To seek the lurking foe was vain,
His steps might not be traced ;

For the dark trackless woods conceal'd
Him, issuing whence he seized
The unwary laborer in his field,
A captive, if he pleased ;

Or else more merciful, despatched
Him at a single blow,
Then his defenceless home attacked,
And laid his loved ones low ;

Or led into captivity
The children and the wife,
In hardship, pain, and misery,
To drag a weary life.

Such scenes as these, we understand
Were acted o'er and o'er,
Beginning first at Westmoreland,
Not far from Number Four.

In both those towns, in Keene likewise,
Were killed and taken some ;
And then eight persons by surprise,
They took in Hopkinton.

Oh ! faces gathered paleness then,
Hearts trembled with dismay ;—
Of foes without, the fears within,
Disturbed them night and day."

The descent upon Hopkinton mentioned in the above extract occurred on the morning of the twenty-second of April, 1746. A party of Indians arrived with muskets, tomahawks, knives, &c., entered a fortified house while the inmates were buried in slumber, the door

having been left open by one who had gone out early to hunt, and captured eight persons. Intelligence of this disaster soon reached the few families planted in Hillsborough, filling them with consternation and alarm. They had no stronghold within the settlement to which they could retreat for safety. Indians were seen prowling about the falls of the Contoocook river, near where the great bridge now stands, at the Bridge village. This fact very naturally induced the supposition that a party of the enemy were concealed in the vicinity awaiting a favorable moment to attack them.

Hastily consulting together, they determined to abandon their settlement, and remove to a place of greater security. After burying their heavier articles of furniture and implements of husbandry, they commenced their flight, taking with them their lighter utensils, and driving their cattle before them. Philip Riley accompanied them. He was the first settler and then the only inhabitant of Antrim. Two years before he had began a clearing on the lot now forming the homestead of Hon. Jacob Whittemore.

The first settlement of Hillsborough, had been commenced under the auspices of the proprietors, Messrs. Hill and Keyes, who had erected a Meeting house of frame work, and a building, intended for a parsonage near it. This church stood on the west side of the road leading from the Centre village to that at the Bridge, and it is believed upon the spot now occupied by the barn of Mr. Seth Clark. The parsonage stood on the site of Mr. Clark's dwelling house. An excellent church bell designed for this forest girt sanctuary was purchased by Col. Hill, but was never brought here as the settlement was soon after abandoned, and the Meeting house burned. The chime of this same bell has long echoed among other hills than these, and summoned another people than this, to worship the God of their fathers. It is now upon one of the churches in Groton, Mass. A plat was allotted for a burial ground contiguous to this Meeting house, and several persons who died during the first settlement were interred in it. No vestige of their last resting place now remains to remind us that once they were.

The names of the first party that settled here were James McCol-

ley, Samuel Gibson, Robert McClure, James Lyon, and others, whose names have not descended to us. They were immediately from the vicinity of Boston. McColley, and McClure however, and perhaps others of the party, were natives of Ireland. The wife of James McColley, was the only woman in the settlement for the first year ; nor during this time was her vision greeted, by the sight of a single female. McColley erected the first habitation which was rudely constructed of logs, and stood on the ground now occupied by the residence of Mr. Cyrus Sargent, at the Bridge, and by the side of a huge rock which was blasted in 1824. The first child born in town, was the late Lieut. John McColley, who first saw the light in this log hut, January 18th, 1742. The second person born here was Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Gibson, who was born May 19th, of the same year, in a log house, near the site of the dwelling of Mr. Benjamin Spaulding. These children went to Litchfield with their parents at the breaking up of the first settlement, where they resided until 1763. After the commencement of the second settlement of Hillsborough, Col. Hill who frequently travelled through Litchfield, on his way from Boston to Hillsborough, became acquainted with these young people, and proposed to them that they should marry each other, and as an inducement offered them one hundred acres of land in Hillsborough, if they would accede to his proposition. They complied, were married, and removed to Hillsborough, when they received the hundred acre tract, and lived in the enjoyment of domestic felicity for more than sixty years.

At an early age Lieut. McColley entered the service of the King, while New-Hampshire was a colony against the French and Indians, and was present at some of their most desperate engagements. He was afterwards in the war of the revolution among the New-Hampshire militia that was called out to meet Burgoyne's army. By his correct habits, his benevolence, and integrity of character, he secured through a long life the esteem of his fellow citizens. He died Dec. 22, 1834, at the advanced age of ninety-two.—At the time of the dissolution of the first settlement, the number of families was not less than eight or ten. They had located themselves at six different

places in the town ; the most northerly on the farm now constituting the homestead of Mr. Benjamin Kimball ; the most westerly on Bible hill. None of the first settlers ever returned to Hillsborough to reside permanently. Robert McClure came here about the year 1775, and laid claim to his land. He remained however but a short time. Several of the children of the first colonists afterwards established themselves in the town, and their descendants are among its present inhabitants.

For more than fifteen years from the dispersion of the first settlers in 1746, the town was destitute of inhabitants. The conquest of Canada, and the termination of the second French war in 1760, having removed the danger of savage incursions, the second settlement of the town was commenced under more favorable circumstances than the first. During the interval which elapsed between these two periods, Col. Hill had become sole proprietor of the town. He derived his title from a grant of Massachusetts while she had authority over this section of New-Hampshire, confirmed by a quitclaim from the Masonian proprietors. In 1763, he employed the late Daniel Campbell, Esq. of Amherst to survey the town into lots which he did, with an accuracy, unusual at that period. The second settlement was commenced about the year 1762 by Daniel McMurphy, who came from Cheshire, now Chester in this State, and fixed his residence on Bible Hill. The traces of his cellar are yet visible in the orchard of Deacon F. W. Symonds. On one occasion he was absent at Cheshire more than two weeks, leaving his wife entirely alone with no human habitation nearer than New Boston. How desolate must have been her situation, in this dreary solitude ! She afterwards related that on one occasion so overpowered was she by a sense of her loneliness, and so desirous to hear the sound of a human voice answering to her own, that at midnight, when no sound was audible, save the distant howl of the famished wolf, and the dismal moan of the waving pine—she went forth from her hut and cried aloud at the height of her voice, that she might hear the responsive echo resounding through the dim aisles of the forest. Mr. McMurphy a few years subsequent removed to the town of Hill in Grafton County. Within one or two years from the date of McMurphy's es-

establishment in Hillsborough, he was followed by other settlers. The individuals whose names follow, were heads of families in 1767, five years after McMurphy located himself here :—John McColley, Capt. Samuel Bradford, senior, Lieut. Samuel Bradford, Jonathan Durant, Joshua Easty, Timothy Wilkins, John Gibson, Samuel Gibson, William Williams, Benjamin Lovejoy, William Pope, Jonathan Sargent, Moses Steel, Isaac Baldwin, William Taggart, Isaac Andrews. Of these, McColley and the two Gibsons were from Litchfield, sons of the first settlers of the town. Capt. S. Bradford, sen., was from Middleton, Ms. where he had kept a public house, He settled on Bible hill, was the first tavern-keeper—was captain of the first company of militia formed in the town, and built the first saw and grist mill in the town. He died in August 1776, universally respected. Lieut. Samuel Bradford, (no connexion of the last named) was from Amherst in this state, married Anna daughter of John Washer of Amherst, who died in 1833 at an advanced age. Lieut. Bradford died in Antrim Feb. 5th, 1813, aged 74, Jonathan Durant was from Billerica Mass. Joshua Easty from Middleton, Mass.—Timothy Wilkins was from Carlisle, Mass. settled on the farm now occupied by Mr. Ebenezer Jones. He returned to Carlisle and died there. William Williams was from Sudbury, Mass. and died here. Benjamin Lovejoy was from Amherst, removed from Hillsborough to Westminster, Vt. William Pope and Isaac Baldwin were from Sudbury, Mass. Jonathan Sargent was from Bradford, Mass. Isaac Andrews from Carlisle, Mass. and Moses Steel from Londonderry. William Taggart was from Derryfield, now Manchester.

When the second settlement was commenced, a young growth of wood had sprung up over the clearings of the former settlers—one house only (the parsonage) remained, every other dwelling had been burned by the Indians. The best authenticated account of the destruction of the meeting-house, is that a man by the name of Keyes, from Weare, who happened this way, having secured the glass, which he buried, set the house on fire, for the mere gratification of seeing it burn.

Ample proof is furnished, that this town was much visited by the

Indians; doubtless of the Penacook tribe by the various relics such as spoons or ladles, probably used in eating—pestles with which they pulverised their corn; tomahawks, hooks, &c. all wrought of stone, which have been frequently upturned by the plough of the husbandman, from the light soil on banks of the streams.

In 1772 the town was incorporated. There being at that time twenty-two freeholders in the place. Isaac Andrews, Esq. was the agent of the inhabitants in procuring the act. He employed the Rev. James Scales, the first minister in Hopkinton, to draft a petition to the Governor and Council for a charter of incorporation. The Charter bears date Nov. 14, 1772, and was issued in the name of "George the Third, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. by and with the advice of our trusty and well-beloved John Wentworth, Esquire, Governor and commander in chief, of our province of New-Hampshire." The boundaries of the town given in this instrument are as follows, viz. Beginning at the southeast corner at a beach tree marked 7, from thence south, 84 degrees and 30 minutes west, about 6 miles by the society lands so called, to a beech tree marked 7, and 8, from thence 84 degrees and 30 minutes east, about 6 miles to a beech tree marked 7, from thence, about 6 miles by the town of Henniker to the bounds first mentioned. All the white pine trees there, being and growing in the town were reserved in the charter for the use of the Royal Navy. This reservation was not very favorably regarded by the people. In the preceding month of April of that year, "Mr. Sheriff Whiting, the first high Sheriff of the County of Hillsborough, had proceeded to the neighboring town of Weare, to arrest one Mudgett, who had been charged with the heinous crime of trespassing on the king's timber,—or of cutting some goodly tree on his own land, which might have made a very pretty mast for his Majesty's Navy. Mudgett, being arrested late in the afternoon, requested the sheriff to wait until the next morning, when he would procure satisfactory bail. Early the next morning, a mob collected and administered a portion of the Law Lynch, by beating the sheriff, (and after they had trimmed his steed's mane, tail, and ears—and seated him

in his saddle in a position, the reverse of that usual for Equestrians)—
‘escorted him out of town.’

Col. Hill, paid Gov. Wentworth what would in our present New-England currency, amount to more than fifty dollars, as a fee, for signing the charter, upon condition that the town should take the name of Hillborough in honor of himself. It accordingly received this name in the charter. It soon however acquired the name of Hillsborough, by conventional usage, and the s, has, ever since been inserted. Perhaps, from the circumstance, that the county was called Hillsborough, which name is supposed to be derived from Wills Hills, the Earl of Hillsborough, who was one of the privy council of George the Third, and whose residence was at Hillsborough in the county of Down in Ireland. The town had originally borne the name of Number Seven, of the frontier towns. The first meeting under the charter was holden Nov. 24th, 1772, at the Inn of Capt. Samuel Bradford, senior, on Bible hill. Capt. Isaac Baldwin, who had been authorised to call the first meeting of the inhabitants, presided as moderator. 1st. It was voted to accept of the charter. Isaac Andrews was elected town clerk, and Isaac Andrews, John McColley, Daniel McNeil, Isaac Baldwin, and William Pope, were chosen selectmen.

During the fifteen years that elapsed after the second settlement was begun, before the erection of a house of worship, the inhabitants were accustomed to assemble for religious services in a barn during the warm season, and in the winter they met in a dwelling-house.

Col. Hill gave ten acres of land near the centre of the town for the site of a meeting-house, burial ground, and common. He also reserved between two and three hundred acres of land, as a gift to the first settled minister in the town. His impaired fortunes prevented further benefactions.

In the autumn of 1772, a proposal was made by the church and town unitedly, to the Rev. Jonathan Barnes to settle with them in the gospel ministry, to which he acceded and was ordained Nov. 25th, of that year in the barn of Lieut. Samuel Bradford, on Bible hill; the same that was burnt by lightning in July 1831. The ladies

were accommodated with seats in the centre. This beautiful eminence received the appellation of Bible hill, from the circumstance that for a considerable period the only large Bibles in the town were owned by Deacons Isaac Andrews, and Joseph Symonds who resided upon this hill.

The vote for building the second Meeting-house in Hillsborough, was passed May 4th, 1773. The town voted to build a Meeting-house on the land which Col. Hill gave for the purpose of the following dimensions : 35 feet in length, 30 wide, and one story high. It was not completed until 1779, so as to be used for meetings. Public worship was probably held in it while in an unfinished state, as we are told that the Rev. Mr. Barnes went home with his boots filled with water, which had fallen upon him while preaching in it during a violent shower. This edifice was occupied as a church until the present town-house was finished, in 1792. It stood a little north of that building, in the centre of the church yard. The Rev. Mr. Barnes was buried on the precise spot where the pulpit had stood. It was removed in 1794, to a site a few rods south of the vestry, where it was fitted up for a school-house. David Dodge, Esq., now of Charlestown, Mass., kept a select school in it for several years, which was in high repute.

In 1789, it was voted in town meeting to build a new house of worship 62 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 2 stories high, with three porches, and a committee of three were appointed to superintend its erection. It was raised in September, 1789, but not completed for two or three years. Deacon Ephraim Barker of Amherst, who died in the year 1800, was the master workman. The raising of a Meeting-house, was in those days an event of no ordinary interest. It was considered the work of two days. A great note of preparation was sounded ; and people came from distant towns to witness the spectacle ; a committee were appointed raisers, and ample provision made to entertain strangers. This spacious temple was the third Meeting-house erected in town. It is now used as a town-house. At this period before people had become so delicate and luxurious as now, there was no fire in the church in winter. It was first intro-

duced about the year 1820. For many years the meetings in the winter were held in the Rev. Mr. Barnes's kitchen, a much more comfortable place we may very readily suppose, than a large, cold cheerless house.

In 1775, hostilities between this country and Great-Britain were commenced. At this period the settlement contained but 40 families. Their number was considerably augmented, by emigration, before the close of the war. The spirit of resistance to the oppressive measures of the British government, extended even to this remote settlement among the hills. The inhabitants of this town entered with patriotic ardor into the excitement of the contest. They contributed their full quota of men, and means to prosecute the war. March 30th, 1775, it was voted, in town meeting, to procure a town stock of ammunition in anticipation of the approaching conflict. June 14th, 1775, in compliance with a recommendation of Congress, a committee of inspection, or safety was chosen, consisting of three persons, viz: Capt. Samuel Bradford, sen., Timothy Wilkins, and Samuel Bradford, jun. In August of the same year, the Rev. Mr. Barnes in consideration of the extraordinary difficulties under which they then labored, relinquished a portion of his salary for that year, to the town, as a free gift. March 31st, 1777, it was voted to carry on their proportion of the war by turns, which vote was annuled, August 5th, 1779. Sept. 22, 1780, it was voted to assess nine thousand seven hundred and two pounds, on the inhabitants of the town, to purchase beef for the American army. It seems unnecessary, to record further the proceedings of the town in relation to the various events of the war. A majority of the able bodied men in the town served in the army personally, many others by substitute. A list of those who engaged in the service from Hillsborough is here presented. Isaac Baldwin, Ammi Andrews, Isaac Andrews, jun'r. Moses Steel, William Pope, Thomas Murdough, Samuel Murdough, Solomon Andrews, John McNeil, Silas Cooledge, Samuel Bradford, junr., John McColley, Samuel Symonds, William Booth, Asa Wilkins, Nathan Taylor, William Taggart, James Taggart, Archibald Taggart, Joseph Taggart, John Taggart, Robert Taggart, Nathaniel

Johnson, Jacob Flint, James Gibson, William Jones, jun., Baxter How. This list is by no means complete. Twenty-seven only are here enumerated ; probably more than thirty from the town were personally engaged in the service during the war. This will give us a very favorable idea of the patriotism of our citizens, if we bear in mind that the number of rateable polls did not at any time during the war, exceed forty-three. The brave Capt. Isaac Baldwin of the list, given above, was born in Sudbury, Mass., in 1736. He married Eunice Jennison of Natick, Mass., and removed to Hillsborough in 1766—being the fifth family that came into the town, after the second settlement. Capt. B. had been a fellow-soldier with the immortal Stark, in the renowned company of rangers, commanded by Maj. Robert Rogers, during the old French and Indian war. It is stated in Everett's life of Stark, that Baldwin had fought in twenty battles, in former wars. While framing a barn in Deering, the tidings of the battle of Lexington, were communicated to him. He hastened to his home and collected a band of volunteers who immediately set out for the scene of action. On reaching Hollis they were informed that a British fleet had commenced an attack upon Portsmouth. On hearing this, they turned their course, and had proceeded to Thornton's Ferry, in Merrimack, where they learned that the rumor was false. On being assured of this, they again pursued their course in the direction of Boston. They stopped over the sabbath, in Billerica, Mass. where they attended church in a body, and listened to a patriotic discourse from the Rev. Dr. Henry Cummings, then minister of that town. Soon after their arrival at head quarters of the American army, a large company was enrolled under the command of Captain Baldwin, John Hale of Hopkinton was Lieutenant, and Stephen Hoit, (father to General Hoit of Sandwich, Ensign.) This company, which belonged to Col. Stark's regiment, was composed principally of volunteers from the towns of Hopkinton, Hillsborough, and Henniker. They quartered at Medford, June 17th, 1775, the day of the battle of Bunker-hill. They were detached with several other companies, from Medford to the battle ground, on Bunker-hill. About 12 o'clock at noon, the valiant Maj. Andrew

McClary from Epsom had command of this detachment. Captain Baldwin was mortally wounded about 1 o'clock, P. M., by a musket ball which lodged in his breast. He was immediately borne from the hill by two privates of his company, Lt. John McNeil, and James Gibson, and died about sunset. After his death, the fatal ball was extracted by Lieut. Ammi Andrews, who sent it to his widow—a sad memento of that dire event, which made her a widow, and her children fatherless. His remains were interred in the burial ground, in Medford, Mass. He left a wife and four children, and a fifth was born several weeks after his decease. The intelligence of Captain Baldwin's death filled the peaceful community where he resided with grief, and mourning. Deeply did they sympathize with his heart-stricken widow. He was emphatically the pride of his townsmen. His kind heart, cheerful disposition, and amiable manners, had greatly endeared him to his fellow-citizens. Truly may it be said of him, None knew him but to love him, "none named him but to praise."

Lieut. Ammi Andrews, was another revolutionary worthy of our town. He was born in Ipswich, Mass. but came to Hillsborough when a young man and settled on the land, now occupied by the Upper village. At one period of his life he was the proprietor of the whole site of that village, and of the circumjacent land to a considerable extent. Lieut. Andrews served through the whole of the revolutionary war, with the rank of a lieutenant. He shared with Col. Arnold, the dangers and privations, of the memorable expedition to Quebec, 1775, where he was taken prisoner, by the British, but soon afterwards exchanged. He was wounded in several engagements and exhibited signal valor, and untiring vigilance in fighting the battles of his country. Many daring exploits, which he achieved in perilous situations, during that contest are related of him. One incident of this description is narrated as follows. While the American army lay encamped in winter quarters, in the latter part of the winter of 1775,—76, three miles from the city of Quebec, Col. Arnold wished to ascertain the strength and position of the British garrison, that he might be able to judge of the expediency of again attempting the reduction of the city. The only possible method of gaining this in-

telligence, was by the capture of a British sentinel. He intimated his desire to his soldiers, and Lieut. Andrews volunteered his services for the undertaking. It was suggested by one that he ought to be provided with the best gun in the army. "Is it a living, or a dead man, that you wish?" inquired the lieutenant. "If you request one alive, I do not wish to be encumbered with a gun," Scaling the walls of the city in the darkness of the night, he awaited a favorable moment to seize the sentry, who was pacing his lonely round, armed with a musket. Lieut. A. sprang upon him and grappled him by the throat assuring him that his life depended upon his silence. Descending the precipice very cautiously, he escorted his prisoner three miles through the snow, to the American camp. Lieut. Andrews died, March 30, 1833, at the age of 97.

Capt. Samuel Bradford, Jr., son of Capt. Samuel Bradford, sen'r was a native of Middleton, Mass., but removed when quite young to Hillsborough, with his parents. At the commencement of the revolutionary war, at the age of seventeen, he enlisted in Capt. Baldwin's company as an orderly sergeant. After the battle of Bunker hill he received an ensign's commission,—performed adjutant's duty, for more than two years in Stark's regiment, and before the close of the war, was appointed a lieutenant. He served through most of that struggle, and was in many of its severest engagements. The urbanity of his manners, the probity of his character, and those patriotic services in the war that secured our liberties, won for him the esteem and respect, of the the circle of acquaintance in which he moved. He died in Acworth, July 23, 1833, aged 80 years.

Lieut. John McNeil, was a native of Derryfield, now Manchester, where he was born in 1756. He was the son of Daniel McNeil, who removed from Manchester to Hillsborough, in 1771, and settled on the farm now occupied by Dea. Tristram Sawyer. He was accidentally drowned in 1790. Lieut. McNeil was a private in Capt. Baldwin's company in the battle of Bunker hill, and assisted in conveying that lamented officer from the field, after he was mortally wounded. He served several years in the war, and was in the battle of Bennington. Lieut. McNeil lived to an advanced age, engaged in

the peaceful avocations of husbandry, sustaining the relations of a father, and a citizen, with the respect of society, and the deep regard of children, who will ever cherish his remembrance, with filial gratitude. He died, Sept. 29, 1836, aged 79 years. He married Lucy, eldest daughter of Isaac Andrews, Esq., who yet survives him. Their children were Mary, who married James Wilson, Esq., born July 6, 1779. Gen. Solomon McNeil, born Jan. 15, 1782. Gen. John McNeil, born March 25, 1784. Lucy, born in April 1786, and died in infancy.

Two of the soldiers from Hillsborough, Lt. Ammi Andrews, and James Taggart, accompanied Gen. Arnold, (then Colonel) in his dreary march to Quebec. In 1781, when a requisition was made, by General Washington for more troops, the town, in order to encourage men to volunteer, gave a bounty to a number who enlisted. This bounty was more than equivalent to what a laboring man would have received, if he had remained at home to work on a farm. On account of the great depreciation of the currency, it was deemed more just to the soldiers, and for the town, to pay this bounty in something not subject to such diminution in value as the continental money. This bounty was entirely independent of the regular pay they received. It was agreed that each soldier should receive twenty head of cattle, to be as many months old, as he should serve months in the army, the payment to be made at the termination of his period of service. A bond was given by the town, for the payment of this bounty. The paper currency, known as continental money, continued to depreciate till near the close of the war, when it had fallen so low that a hundred dollars in paper, were worth but one in silver, so much had it depreciated, that Mr. Daniel Killom paid \$10,000, for a farm worth, perhaps \$100, in specie. He sold another farm, and received his pay in rye, at \$75,00 a bushel. The price of a meal of pork and potatoes was \$50,00, and the salary of the Rev. Mr. Barnes, was one year, only sufficient to purchase him a pig, although the town indemnified him, to the full amount of his salary. As loans and supplies from Europe, introduced a metallic currency, the paper ceased

to circulate ; but not till it had involved in absolute ruin, many individuals.

Col. John Hill, the original proprietor and early patron of the town, died in 1776, at his residence in Boston. At one period of his life he was a man of considerable affluence, but subsequently embarked in an enterprise, which promised to be of considerable advantage to the city of his abode. It did not, however, realize the expectations of its prosecutors, and consequently, involved him in a pecuniary embarrassment. He was a man of considerable prominence in Boston, of dignified deportment and urbane manners. He frequently visited Hillsborough, and was received by the inhabitants with the most respectful deference. For many years his stated price for land was fifty cents an acre. Several extensive lots, in the north east part of the town, were mortgaged by him, to secure individuals who had loaned him money, which he was never able to pay and, consequently, the land went into the possession of his creditors. In this manner, Gov. James Bowdoin, of Massachusetts, acquired one thousand acres, in the northeast section of the town ; and a Mr. Green of Boston, a tract of eight hundred. The first settlement, made in this part of the town, was commenced by John Hartwell from Concord, Mass. and Thaddeus Munroe, from Carlisle, who came here in 1780, accompanied by their families.

The first bridge over the Contoocook river built in Hillsborough, was erected of wood in 1779, on the site of the present stone bridge, and was reconstructed in 1796. Daniel McNeil was employed by the town, as architect to rebuild the same in 1809. The town deeming it advisable to have a bridge of more substantial material ; constructed in 1824 a bridge of split stone, excepting forty feet in the middle which was built of wood. Mr. Squires F. Clement, supervised this work. In 1839, this bridge was elevated five feet, with a new stone railing, and the present elegant granite arch substituted in lieu of the wood work of the former bridge. Messrs. Reed and Thompson of Keene were the contractors. January 21, 1786, Lieut. Robert B. Wilkins was chosen as delegate from Hillsborough in conjunction, with Henniker, to attend the convention, which sat at Exeter, in Feb-

ruary of that year, for the purpose of deciding, so far as it respected New-Hampshire, the momentous question of adopting, or rejecting the Federal Constitution. Lieut. Wilkins resided at the Bridge village several years. He was a native of Amherst and removed from this town to Concord, and thence to Boston, about one year prior to his death, which occurred in August 1832, at the age of seventy-seven years. Lieut. W. was characterized by an inexhaustible fund of humour, and great powers of anecdote, which rendered him an agreeable companion in the social circle. He entered the service of his country at the commencement of the Revolutionary war, and served until its close, with a high reputation as a heroic officer. He was wounded in the battle of Bunker hill. Through the year 1780, he officiated as quarter-master, in the detachment commanded by Gen. Lafayette, and during this time, became intimately acquainted with that illustrious officer, and was presented by him with the entire suit of an officer for his daring exploit, in taking some cattle from the British at their fort at Poules Hook, opposite New York city. Lt. W. was a great favorite with the officers of his regiment, who familiarly styled him "Bob Wilkes." When Gen. Lafayette visited Concord in 1825, Lieut. Wilkins was formally introduced to him as one of his former companions in arms. The lapse of nearly half a century had wrought such changes on his person, that the General did not at first recognise him. An allusion by the lieutenant, to some incident which occurred during their intercourse in the army, at once revived his recollection, and he fell upon his neck and tenderly embraced him exclaiming, "Oh, Bob Wilkes, Bob Wilkes." Both were visibly affected, and Lafayette wept audibly. The interview was witnessed with intense interest by the bystanders.

In October 1785, Joseph Symonds was chosen by the town to present their petitions to the General Assembly of the State; and I have been informed that he served as delegate to that body, from Hillsborough two or more years, although there is no mention made of it in the town records. In 1791, Benjamin Pierce was elected to represent the town in the convention holden for the revision of the constitution of New Hampshire.

D

It may be proper to glance for a moment, at the habits, manners, and customs of the earlier inhabitants of Hillsborough. The majority of them were of the Puritan stock ; and they inherited much of the self denying spirit which distinguished that noble race of men. Another considerable portion of the early settlers, were of the Londonderry stock, which emigrated from the north of Ireland, their ancestors being originally from Scotland. In the seventeenth century considerable numbers of the Scotch were induced, by large grants of land, from James the First, to settle in the north of Ireland, where their posterity remained, distinct from the inhabitants of that country. They were Scotch Presbyterians, and with the hope of enjoying their religious liberty, they came to America about the year 1718. They subsequently settled in Londonderry, whence some of the first inhabitants of Hillsborough emigrated. The McNeil's, the McClintock's, the McClary's, the McColley's, the McClure's, the Cunningham's, the McAlister's, the Taggart's, the Steele's, the Wilson's, the Gibson's, the Houston's, and several other families were of this origin. They were an active, cool headed, warm hearted, mirth loving people. Descended as most of them were from the Pilgrims, and Scotch covenanters, they had been trained to habits of industry, perseverance, and self denial, which peculiarly fitted them for pioneers in the wilderness. When we take into view the difficulties they encountered, we almost wonder at the courage and hardihood displayed in surmounting them. Their lands were encumbered with thick forests. They had no roads save paths marked by spotted trees. They endured hardships almost inconceivable in transporting their necessities over these rough ways. We are told that it required three men to steady the vehicle which conveyed the furniture of the Rev. Mr. Barnes, from Amherst to this town. They had no bridges, but were obliged to ford the streams which were often swollen, so as to be impassable. They possessed but few implements of husbandry. Their dwellings were at first rude huts, built of logs and furnished with none of the luxuries, and comparatively few, of the conveniences of life.

“Through years of toil, through years of want,
They bravely struggled on ;
And lo ! the forest melts away,
The sturdy pines are gone.”

Their manner of living was extremely simple. When they had milk, a considerable part of their food was bread and milk. In the winter when they had no milk, they made great account of bean porridge, samp broth, pork, and beans, &c. Tea, coffee, sugar and molasses, were dainties which they seldom afforded; and equally removed from the extravagance of modern times, was their style of dress. In those days, a man deemed a suit manufactured by his wife or daughter, sufficiently good for him to wear on most occasions, and our grandmothers made their afternoon visits in a short loose gown, with a checked apron, and neck kerchief, which their own hands had spun. For a number of years after the settlement of the town, no carriages were used, and all journies were performed on horse back. The good man and his wife were accustomed to ride to church upon the same horse; she sitting on a pillion behind him, and not unfrequently carrying a child in her arms; while another, was mounted on the pommel of the saddle before its father. No person thought of purchasing, or exchanging a horse without making the inquiry, "can she carry double?" as some, otherwise valuable animals were in the habit of elevating their heels, to testify their displeasure at being thus double jaded. In winter when the snow was deep, a pair of oxen were attached to a sled, and the whole family rode to meeting upon an oxsled. Sometimes too, an entire household, seated upon an oxsled, would set out in the morning to spend the day with a friend six or seven miles distant. What would our railroad travellers in these days say to such a mode of conveyance? But alas! the day of invention had not then arrived. Steam had not then as now, been made to expedite every kind of business, even to that of ridding the doctor of his patients. In former days, greater quantities of snow fell in winter than now, and snow shoes were much in vogue. About forty years since sleighs took the place of sleds. At first double sleighs were used of sufficient size to accommodate six or eight persons. Single cutters were soon after introduced. Waggon's were substituted for riding on horse back, about the year 1812. The first chaise owned in town, belonged to Mr. John Shed, and the second, to Dea. Joseph Symonds. These were introduced about the year

1805. Inured to constant labor and exposure the first settlers here were a hardy race. They were not ashamed to bear the reputation of working men. On the contrary, indolence was a lasting disgrace. The females assisted in what they termed the lighter outdoor work, such as raking hay, pulling flax, &c. It is authentically stated that the wife of Thomas Murdough, the first settler on the farm now owned by the town, as the poor farm, was accustomed to travel twice daily, nearly three miles through the woods to Maj. Andrews's to milk her cows, when the weather would permit. What language would this hardy grandmother and her cotemporaries, employ in addressing a rebuke to some young ladies of this degenerate age, who not only deem it quite ungenteel to milk at all, but who flee from the presence of the harmless cows as from beasts of prey.

The marriage ceremony was most commonly performed at the house of the clergyman, after which the newly married couple mounted upon one horse and rode lovingly to their habitation. Not unfrequently as they passed along they were saluted from the various dwellings on the way by the firing of muskets. This custom, however, pertained only to the Scotch Irish portion of the people. They were met by a party of their friends, who accompanied them to their home, where the evening was passed in every species of jolity and mirth. Among the amusements common at that period, may be mentioned, quilting parties. The young women assembled in the afternoon and plied their needles industriously till evening, when the young men came in, and country dances filled up the remainder of the evening. In Autumn, husking frolics, terminated by a dance, furnished fine amusement. Somewhat later the apple bee became common. Dancing parties have always been customary, but are much less so now than formerly. Balls, and sleigh rides, have ever been favorite pastimes.

Notwithstanding the sagacity, and good sense possessed by the earlier inhabitants, most of them religiously believed in the existence of witches, and the appearance of ghosts. Many too, doubted not that the evil one sometimes assumed a bodily form, and honored those whose conduct met his approbation, with a personal interview.

Mrs. Robinson, whose husband kept a tavern at the top of a high hill in Deering, was among the noted witches of this vicinity. As our townsmen were ascending this hill with loaded teams, their cattle would suddenly halt; nor could they be induced to move until the teamster had gone to the tavern for a glass of toddy, when they would go briskly forward. It was really supposed that Mrs. Robinson compelled the beasts to stop until she had sold their driver a little of "something to drink," when the spell was removed. It is apprehended that this is not the only tavern, where witches have resided. Another reputed witch, was a Mrs. Gilchrist of Irish extraction, who dwelt alone in a small house in the southwest part of the town. She was in aspect, such a person as would be generally selected for a witch;—being a small, lean, sallow, shrivelled, old woman, universally known as "Aunt Jenny." If any of her neighbors had difficulty in bringing their butter it was ascribed to the evil influence of "Aunt Jenny," whereupon they would heat a horseshoe red hot, and cast it into the churn. The moment this was done another person, who stood ready at the door, would run with all possible speed and peep in at her window to see if she was not burned by the horse shoe. One of her neighbors to whom she was no friend, was suddenly prostrated to the floor unable to move. One person who was present remarked, that she did not believe that any power on earth could raise him from the floor. After summoning a council of their relatives, it was concluded to send for the minister to come and pray with him. At the mention of prayer the charm was dissolved, and he arose from the floor. On another occasion, one of Aunt Jenny's neighbors was passing her cottage, with an ox-cart, containing three barrels of cider, when on a sudden, the pin which fastened the cart to the yoke, although the head of it was much larger than the hole in which it was inserted, dropped through and disengaged the oxen from the cart; nor could he by any means get started again, until he had presented Aunt Jenny, with one of his barrels of cider. Another instance of Aunt Jenny's evil agency, is gravely related as follows: some young ladies, who lived on the opposite side of the way from the old woman, and who had in some

way offended her, intended to ride out one summer's afternoon, and for this purpose had the horse put into the barn. Aunt Jenny said to them in her Irish brogue, "May be ye'll nae gie there;" and sure enough, they did not; for on going to the barn to tackle the horse, which was usually steady, and unaccustomed to such pranks, escaped at a small stable window, and after performing various antics, capered off at a furious pace, for more than three miles, and it employed several men a number of hours in securing it. An individual in her vicinity becoming enraged at an old sheep in his flock, which exhibited symptoms analogous to hydrophobia, struck it a violent blow which fractured one of its legs. Immediately Aunt Jenny fell to the floor of her cottage, and after lingering a few weeks in great agony, expired. One of the neighbors who was employed to watch at her bed-side during the night, was strictly charged by a good woman of the neighborhood, believing that Aunt Jenny's end drew nigh, not to leave her, as she had heard that witches never suffered any one to witness their death, and was anxious to test the truth of this current belief. Once in the night he left her bedside for a moment to get a paper from a table which stood near. His attention was withdrawn but a few seconds, but when he again directed his glance to her, she was dead. These are a few of the many samples given us of the wonderful power of witches. Horse-shoes, witch-hazel rods, and silver, were considered effectual preventives of their evil influence. I would by no means convey the impression that the people of Hillsborough were particularly superstitious. It is apprehended that the annalist of nearly every town in New-England, of the same population, might relate quite as many, if not more instances of the gross delusion of witch-craft which prevailed so extensively a century since, and which appears to have been so deeply imbedded in the popular mind. The increasing influence of popular education, is rapidly doing away these errors,* and superstitions

The situation of the town with respect to education, is very differ-

* To any who may believe that witchcraft is not a superstitious fallacy, the perusal of a book entitled, "Lectures on the Salem "Witchcraft," by the Rev. Charles W. Upham of that city, is respectfully commended.

ent from its state fifty and sixty years ago. The first school kept in Hillsborough, was taught by George Bemaine, about the year 1770, in a log school-house which stood a few rods west of Mr. Daniel Templeton's, on the north side of the road leading from the Lower village to the Bridge. Bemaines was a native of England; but came to this country in early life with his parents, who belonged to the British army. He deserted the army before he arrived at manhood, came to Hillsborough and taught school in this town, and the vicinity a number of years prior to the revolutionary war. He entered the American army at the commencement of our struggle for independence, and was killed in the battle at White Plains, New-York, in September 1776. He was a school-mate of the famous Dilworth, the author of the spelling-book, received an excellent education, and is said to have excelled particularly in penmanship. The first female who taught school in the town, was a Mrs. Muzzey, a widow lady from Sudbury, Mass., who instructed here several years. In the infancy of the town many young men were accustomed to resort in the winter season to the Rev. Mr. Barnes for instruction in the rudiments of an English education. The first record respecting the town schools bears date, 1780. It was voted in that year to raise one hundred pounds for the support of schools. In 1792, a vote was passed to raise twenty-five pounds for common schools, exclusive of what the rate required. Dilworth's spelling book was then the fountain of learning. The Psalter and a simple treatise on arithmetic were used in some of the schools. Choosing sides and spelling once a week was the food, dinner, and dessert of ambition, and the school masters ferule the principal stimulant. Saturday noons, the little square blue primer, containing the catechism and commandments, Watt's cradle hymns, furnished scholars with their quantum of religious instruction, and with these facilities and materials, the young mind was to be advanced and furnished for the business of the world. Time has wrought a gradual improvement in the character of our common schools. Yet it must be acknowledged that our system of popular education is far from being as perfect as it ought to be in a Republic, where the permanency of our civil institutions

depends mainly upon the diffusion of intelligence among the mass of the people. The present number of school districts in the town is seventeen, at which between five and six hundred children and youth, are annually instructed. The amount expended in the town for a few years past, in the support of its common schools, has been about one thousand dollars yearly.

Hillsborough Academy, was incorporated by the Legislature in June 1821, and the same year a building of brick was erected for its accommodation at the Lower village. This institution has not been in constant operation since its foundation, but has been opened occasionally for a part of the year, with considerable success. The names of those who have been its instructors, from time to time, are as follows. Dr. Simeon Ingersoll Bard, of Francestown ; Rev. William Clark, now of Cincinnati, Ohio, who graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1821, and at Andover Theological Seminary, in 1827 ; Rev. Samuel Wallace Clark, brother of the preceding, of Greenland, N. H., who graduated at Dartmouth College in 1823, and at Andover in 1827 ; Rev. Josiah Peabody, who graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1825 ; Robert Reed Heath, who graduated at Dartmouth College in 1825 ; Solomon Heath, brother to Robert, who graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1826 ; Benjamin F. Wallace, Esq., Rev. Ephraim Taylor, Albert Baker, Esq., and Francis Brown Mussey, of Amherst. High schools have frequently been taught for a season at the Bridge and Centre villages. Besides the money raised for town schools, public and private, large sums have been expended by young men and women at schools, academies, and colleges, abroad, where they have gone to seek further advantages of education. Subjoined are brief notices of the natives of the town, who have received a liberal education. Abraham Andrews, son of Solomon and Sarah Andrews, was born Dec. 14th, 1786, prepared for college under the direction of his uncle the Rev. Ephraim P. Bradford, graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1811, and has, for many years, been an eminent instructor in Charlestown, and Boston, Mass. He now resides in Charlestown.

Col. Benjamin Kendrick Pierce, eldest son of the late Governor

Benjamin Pierce, was born August 29th, 1790, received his education preparatory for college at Phillips Academy, Exeter, entered Dartmouth College in 1807, and continued a member of that institution three years, when he commenced the study of law in the office of David Starratt, Esq. He pursued his legal studies until the commencement of the late war with Great Britain, when he entered the army with the rank of Lieutenant in the third Regiment of Artillery, intending to resume his legal pursuits when the war should close. Circumstances however, caused him to remain in the service in which he has been advanced by regular gradations from the rank of Lieutenant to that of Colonel by brevet, which post he now holds in the 1st Regiment of Artillery. Col. P. was especially distinguished as an able, and efficient officer, in the late Florida War. He has been thrice married and is now a widower.

Rev. Francis Danforth, son of Jonathan Danforth, was born Feb. 28th, 1793, fitted for college at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., graduated at Dartmouth College in 1819, studied Theology at the Theological Seminary at Andover, Mass., where he graduated in 1822, was ordained pastor of the first Congregational Church in Greenfield, N. H., July 11, 1823, dismissed in 1831; installed at Winchester, N. H., August 18th, 1831, dismissed in 1839; installed at Hadley, Mass., Dec. 11th, 1839, where he now resides.

Rev. Aaron Foster, son of Aaron Foster, was born March 19th, 1794, prepared for college at Union Academy, Plainfield, graduated at Dartmouth College in 1822, and at the Andover Theological Seminary in 1825. He was employed for several years as a domestic Missionary, and is now settled in the ministry at Fort Covington, N. Y. Rev. Jeremiah Stow, eldest son of Deacon Joel Stow, was born February 15, 1796, pursued his studies preparatory for admission to college, at the Union Academy Plainfield, graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1822, at Andover Theological Seminary, in 1825. In July, 1826, married Miss Austress, daughter of the late David Stewart, Esq.; of Amherst, was employed as a home missionary several years, and was afterwards settled in the ministry at Livonia, N. Y., where he died of consumption, Nov. 15, 1832, aged 37 years

and 9 months. Amasa Symonds, son of Eliphalet Symonds, was born Sept. 9, 1799, prepared for college at North Andover, and at Phillips Academy South Andover, Mass., entered Dartmouth College in 1821, and died at his father's in Hillsborough, Nov. 8th 1822, while a member of the Sophomore class in that institution.— Lieut. Amos B. Foster, son of Aaron Foster, was born July 15th, 1804, was educated as a cadet at the Military Academy, West-Point, where he graduated in 1827, visited his friends for the last time and was ordered to St. Louis, Mo. From thence, he proceeded to Fort Dearborn, at Chicago Ill., and in the spring of 1831, was removed to Fort Howard, Green Bay, where he was murdered Feb. 7th, 1832, at the age of twenty-seven years and six months. The circumstances of his death were briefly these : Lieut. Foster, had reprimanded a private of his company by the name of Boyle, for disorderly conduct, who made use of such insolent, and unbecoming language in reply, that the lieutenant was induced to take him by the shoulder and shake him, at the same time ordering a corporal to take him to the guard-house. Boyle immediately went out saying, "Oh yes, Lieutenant, I'll go to the guard house." He ran across the parade ground to the guard house, seized a musket, and returned to Lieutenant F's quarters, eluding the vigilance of the corporal, he ran up to the Lieutenant's chamber in the second story, and shot him through the heart. The ball passed through the right arm, above the elbow, through the body, and the left elbow which was horribly shattered. After receiving the wound, he walked into his bed room which adjoined the chamber, with the hand of his unbroken arm on the wound of his left side, turned quickly to go out and fell as he passed through the door, and instantly expired. Lieut. Foster was an active, vigilant and useful officer, mild and amiable in his deportment and disposition, beloved by his relatives and friends and esteemed by all who knew him. Hon. Franklin Pierce, the fourth son of the late Gov. Benjamin Pierce, was born Nov. 23d, 1804, graduated at Bowdoin college, in 1824, commenced the study of law under the direction of the late John Burnam, Esq. in his native village, and pursued his course subsequently, at the Law-school, at

Northampton, Mass., at that time under the direction of the late lamented Judge How, and in the offices of the Hon. Levi Woodbury, at Portsmouth, and the Hon. Edmund Parker, at Amherst, was admitted to the bar at Amherst, in September 1827. In October of the same year, he opened an office in Hillsborough, and continued here until 1838, when he removed to Concord, where he now resides. In 1831, he was appointed by the late Gov. Dinsmoor, one of his aids with the rank of Colonel. He represented Hillsborough in the State Legislature, four years successively, from 1828. In 1831 and 1832, he was speaker of the House of Representatives. In 1833, he was chosen a member of Congress, and continued to represent this State in the popular branch of the National Legislature, until the 4th of March, 1837, when he took his seat in the U. S. Senate, having been elected to that station, which he still occupies in the preceding December. Col. Pierce was married in 1834, to Miss Jane M., youngest daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Jesse Appleton, President of Bowdoin College.

Rev. Henry Jones, son of Benjamin Jones, was born September 29th, 1804, pursued his studies preparatory for College at the Union Academy Plainfield; graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1835, was married in April 1836, to Miss Betsey, daughter of Mr. Eliphalet Symonds of this town, and is now Preceptor of an Academy at Chattanooga, in Tennessee. Rev. Willard Jones, a brother of Henry, was born July 17th 1809, prepared for college at Union Academy, Plainfield, graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1835, acquired his Theological education at the Lane Seminary, Cincinnati Ohio, and at the Andover Theological Seminary, was ordained as a missionary, at North Weymouth, Mass., July 4th 1839, and on the same day was married to Miss Meriam Pratt of that town. He is now stationed at Ooroomiah in Persia. Edward Robbins Johnson, the youngest son of the late Nathaniel Johnson, Esq. was born July 28th, 1810, prepared for college at Phillips academy Andover and at Boscawen Academy, entered Dartmouth College, in 1830, remained in college but two years—studied law and commenced practice which he afterwards abandoned, and now enjoys a high reputation as an instructor of music. He at present resides in Hartford, Conn.

John Appleton Burnham, Esq. son of the late John Burnham, Esq. was born June 16th 1813, fitted for college at Pembroke Academy, graduated at Amherst college in 1833, and is now agent of the Stark Manufacturing company, at Manchester in this state. Joel Buchanan Stow, son of Dea. Joel Stow, was born June 30th, 1813, graduated at the Teachers Seminary, Andover, Mass. was for some time a teacher in the Teachers Seminary, at Plymouth, N. H., and is now engaged as an instructor, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Rev. Levi Smith, son of David Smith, was born May 9th, 1812, pursued his academical and Theological studies at New Hampton, in this state, where he graduated in 1840, and is now preaching at Danville, Vt. Clark Cooledge, son of Lemuel Cooledge, was born in June 1811, prepared for college at Wilbraham, Mass. Academy, and died in July 1840, while a member of the Wesleyan University at Middleton, Conn.

Several other individuals belonging to the town, are now in a course of academical and professional study. Four natives of Hillsborough have been physicians, viz: Dr. Thomas Preston, Dr. Silas McClary, son of John McClary, was born July the 29th, 1792, acquired his medical education at New Haven, Conn. practiced some years in Lower Canada, and afterwards removed to Ohio where it is believed he now resides; Dr. John Harbert Foster, second son of Aaron Foster, was born March 8th, 1796, studied his profession principally with Dr. Reuben D. Mussey, at Hanover, graduated at the medical school connected with Dartmouth College, in 1821, commenced practice at New London, in this state, after residing there several years, removed to Pittsburg, Pa., thence to Mobile, Alabama, and in 1832 to Michigan, where he now resides; Dr. Samuel Sargent, son of Jonathan Sargent, was born March 13th, 1790, and now practices medicine in Chichester, N. H.

The Harmony Lodge, No. 38 of free and accepted; was constituted Sept. 17th 1821. by a grant from the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, incorporated by the Legislature, June 22, 1827. Original number of members, 14. Number admitted from 1831, to 1833, 78, making an aggregate of 92 individuals who have been admitted to this Lodge. The Lodge is located at the hall of Thomas Wilson, Esq. It is not so flourishing as formerly.

The Hillsborough Temperance society was formed July 5th, 1830, Dea. George Dascomb was chosen its first president. The society has had an annual increase since its formation. The whole number who have joined, is 408. Of this number, 25 have died, 9 males and 16 females.

The first tavern kept in Hillsborough was opened in 1766, by Capt. Samuel Bradford, sen., on Bible hill. The first store was opened at the Bridge about the year 1785 by the late Lieut. William Taggart. The second was commenced by Enos Towne about 1790, between the Lower village and Bible Hill. Before this the inhabitants had obtained their mercantile supplies principally from Amherst. The first saw and grist mill, was built by Capt. Samuel Bradford, sen. in 1766, a little above the Bridge, between the Lower village and Bible hill. This set of mills was swept away by a freshet in the spring of 1767, soon after they were put in operation. The second set of mills was built two or three years after by Archibald Taggart, at the Bridge. They stood on the site now occupied by the north factory, and were a great accommodation not only to the early inhabitants of Hillsborough, but to those of other towns in the vicinity who had previous to their erection, been obliged to go to New Boston to get their grain ground. In 1811 the first cotton factory was built. The frame was reared July 4th of that year. The first weaving in it was done in 1828. The second factory was built by Mr. Joshua Marcy in 1828.

In the last war with Great Britain, a commendable spirit of patriotism was evinced by the citizens of Hillsborough. Several persons (nearly twenty it is believed) from the town enlisted in the regular army. Two natives of the town, Gen. John McNeil and Col. Benjamin K. Pierce before mentioned, were distinguished officers of that war. Gen. John McNeil entered the service as Captain in the 11th regiment of infantry to which he was appointed March 12th, 1812, was promoted to the rank of Major, August 15th 1813, breveted a Lieut. Colonel July 5th, 1814, "for his intrepid behavior on the 5th day of July in the battle of Chippewa," received a second brevet that of Colonel, July 25th 1813, "for his distinguished valor as

commander of the 11th regiment of infantry on the 25th day of July in the battle of Niagara," was retained in the Peace establishment as Major of the 5th infantry to rank 15th of August 1813, promoted to the rank of Lieut. Colonel, 1st regiment of infantry Feb. 24, 1818, promoted to the rank of Colonel April 28th 1826, breveted Brig. General July 25th 1824, for ten years faithful service in the grade of brevet Colonel, resigned and retired from the service in April 1830, on being appointed surveyor for the port of Boston.

General McNeil's distinguished military services commencing before actual declaration of war by Congress and continuing through a period of eighteen years, present a bright page in the history of that contest, and have won for him a name that will be remembered along with the Sullivans Starks and Cilleys of the granite state. It is a fact worthy of notice that the gallant 11th regiment in the battles of Chippewa and Niagara or Lundy's lane should have been commanded by a young Major, and that he in the brief space of twenty days, should have received two brevets, for his distinguished, and gallant conduct upon the field of battle. In the dusk of the evening, during the last named engagement, while at the head of his regiment, cheering them on to the conflict, he was wounded by a cannister shot, which passed through the right knee. From the size of the ball, the limb was dreadfully shattered and nearly carried away. Still he remained long upon the ground and did not leave it until fainting with the loss of blood, his situation was observed by soldiers near him, through whose aid he was sustained in his saddle and taken from the field.

In 1814, when large detachments of the New-Hampshire militia, were summoned to defend Portsmouth, which was then menaced with an attack, Hillsborough furnished a considerable number of men. One native of the town has been slain in the late Florida war. Lieut. John W. S. McNeil, eldest son of Gen. John McNeil was mortally wounded, while leading an attack upon an Indian camp in Florida, on the morning of the 10th of September 1837, and lingered until the next night, when he expired at the age of twenty years, and six months. Lieut. McNeil was a young officer of rich promise, pos-

sessed a heart susceptible of every noble and generous impression, high-minded, brave and honorable.

There has been fourteen instances of death by accident, viz. Two were killed by falling trees, eight were drowned, two were burned to death, one by a fall in a mill, and one by a fall from a horse. Eleven dwellings have been destroyed by fire. In that of Mr. Samuel Lacy burnt about the year 1822, the corpse of his mother was shockingly disfigured by the fire. Several barns and school-houses, also a considerable number of blacksmith's shops have been burned. In July 1831, a barn of much value belonging to Mr. James Jones was struck by lightning and consumed, the uncommonly large and valuable blacksmith shop and axe manufactory, at the Bridge village, belonging to Messrs. Peaslee and Whittemore was burned in October 1836. There is one accident in the history of the town which stands out with peculiar prominence. About 12 o'clock, on the night of October 27th 1838, the large well furnished house of Mr. George Nelson was discovered to be on fire, and so rapid was the progress of the devouring element, that his family consisting of five adults, barely escaped with their lives. Mrs. Nelson first discovered the fire and alarmed her husband. He immediately arose and called his son who slept in the chamber, then passing through the kitchen opened a door leading to the back kitchen where a current of hot air and smoke prostrated him to the floor. He attempted to find his way to the entry door, but being bewildered, went into the parlor, and threw himself from a window into the front yard. He there ascertained that his daughter was safe, and that his son was dragging an old lady (then in the family) down stairs. The children inquired "where is mother?" Mr. Nelson, till then supposing she was securely out, endeavored to go through the kitchen to the bed room where he had left her; but in the midst of the darkness, smoke and heat missed his way, and proceeded to the back kitchen door, and there found his wife, lying upon the floor in a state of insensibility in the current of hot air, from which he had but just escaped. He bore her across the street to the nearest neighbors. While on the way she revived, but was so scalded both internally,

and externally, by the hot air that neither medical skill, nor the kind care and anxious solicitude of neighbors and friends could save her life. She lingered in great distress until the morning of November 1st, when she was released from her sufferings at the age of fifty-eight years. Mrs. Nelson* was an amiable and pious woman, and the consolations of the religion which she professed, supported her in the hour of death. She expressed her resignation to the divine will, uttering with her expiring breath, "Thy will be done," and the last words she was heard to articulate, were "Peace be still."

The author has no data in his possession which will enable him to exhibit the rates of mortality at different periods in the history of the town. The spotted fever prevailed to a considerable extent, in the winter of 1811—1812. In 1826, the dysentary raged with great violence, creating an unusual degree of mortality in the town. In December 1832, the small-pox appeared in the family of Dr. Reuben Hatch, but a house remote from others, being provided for the reception of the infected, and other precautions being taken its extent was limited and was fatal in only one instance. It again visited the town in the winter of 1837-38. It prevailed only in the family of Mr. Hammond Preston, one of whose children died of it. The most remarkable instance of longevity in Hillsborough, was Gridley Jackson, a soldier of the revolution who died October 10th, 1829, at the age of 101 years 9 months and 5 days, several other persons have died in the town, when nearly one hundred years old. The population of the town in 1790 was 798, in 1800, 1311, in 1810, 1592, in 1820, 1982, in 1830, 1792, in 1840, 1808. The reader will perceive by the foregoing account, that the town contains

* Mrs. Nelson was born in Kittery, Maine, in 1780. Her maiden name was Nancy Tobey. She was married at Boston, in 1800, to Silas Dutton, Esq. of Hillsborough, who died Jan. 28th, 1813, aged 33 years. She was again married Dec. 23d, 1813, to Mr. George Nelson. Her children by Mr. Dutton were, Samuel Chamberlain Dutton, born Sept. 27th 1801; now a merchant in Brattleborough, Vt., Adeline C. born Feb. 15th, 1803, who was married Nov. 3d, 1823, to Enoch Train, Esq. of Boston, and died in 1834. Sarah C. born January 15th, 1805, and was married May 29th, 1831, to Thomas H. Leverett, Esq. now of Keene, and died August 13, 1832. Caroline N. born Feb. 19th 1810 and was married in April 1830, to the Rev. Mr. Ira Mason Mead, now of Ypsilanti Michigan. By Mr. Nelson, Harriet B. Nelson who was married April 7th 1834, to Thomas H. Leverett, Esq. of Keene, and died in July 1840, a son and a daughter who died in infancy. Mary Ann still unmarried, and now resident in Ypsilanti Michigan. George R. who died May 31st, 1839, aged 19 years.

a less number of inhabitants than in 1820. Within the last forty years the town has given much more than it has received by emigration. Many of the emigrants are among the enterprising and useful citizens of our larger towns and cities. Among the natives of the town, where activity, enterprise and perseverance in the pursuits of commerce has been crowned with signal success, are Samuel Train, Esq. of Medford, Mass., and Ebenezer Parker, and Enoch Train Esquires of Boston, ornaments to the mercantile community, and the surveyors* of the ports of Boston and New-York.

Within the last fifteen years, this town has contributed largely to the tide of emigration which is peopling the valley of the Mississippi. Deer, Moose, Bears, and wolves were common in the earlier stages of the settlement. A moose was killed in Antrim, just beyond the limits of the town in 1790. A deer was killed on Hedgehog hill in the north west part of Deering within twenty years. The last wolf killed in town was shot by Maj. Isaac Andrews about the year 1790. Wolves tracks were discovered in his sheep fold. He baited a fox trap and set it in a convenient place, and the third morning after, saw that a wolf, one of three that had visited his premises the preceeding night, had been caught and had escaped with the trap. Putting on his snow-shoes and taking his gun he proceeded in quest of it. After tracking it for a considerable distance he discovered it on the low ground south of Mr. Isaac Baldwin's, and at the second fire killed it. This wolf in company with two others had crossed his track several times while he was in pursuit. The other wolves had deserted their wounded companion after having accompanied him for some time, but were supposed to be near by when Maj. Andrews fired. A wolf was started from his lair somewhat later than this in the north part of the town and after being hunted several days was killed in Goshen. Bears were frequently seen in town long after the wolves had been exterminated. Mr. James Carr residing in the north part of the town was a bear trapper. On going to his trap one morning he found it gone. He armed himself with his rifle and after following the track

* General John McNeil and William Taggart, Esq. are both natives of Hillsborough.

about a mile he espied a bear. He laid aside his gun and commenced an attack with a club. The moment he struck at the bear, it grappled him with its paw and seized his left arm in its jaws. Carr disliking so close an embrace, with considerable effort drew from his pocket a knife and compelled Bruin to relinquish his hold. The bear having in the struggle freed himself from the trap, retreated to a ledge of rocks near by. Thither Carr pursued him, though somewhat hurt by the encounter and discharged his rifle at him several times before he killed him. Wild turkies were shot in town as late as 1803, the beaver and the otter were frequent. The meadow, south of Loon Pond, is said to have been flowed by beaver dams. Their remains were visible thirty years since. Forty years ago salmon were abundant in the Contoocook river. They went up the small streams and brooks at some seasons of the year. The multiplication of dams has interposed a barrier to their ascent from the Merrimack.

At the annual town meeting in March 1831, a committee was chosen by the town to purchase a town farm for the support of its paupers. Accordingly the committee the same year bought a farm in the north part of the town for \$2510,33. The average number of paupers for several years past, has been about ten. They are supported at the expense of \$200, per annum, exclusive of the farm.

Seven individuals have been established here in the practice of Law, namely, David Starret, John Burnam, David Steele, John McFarland, Timothy Darling, Franklin Pierce, and Albert Baker.

David Starret was born at Francetown, N. H., April 21st, 1774, graduated at Dartmouth college in 1798, studied his profession with the Hon. Samuel Bell, then at Francetown, was admitted to the Hillsborough county bar at Hopkinton in September 1802, and commenced practice here in the same year, and continued to reside here until March 1812. One morning in that month he left home for the ostensible purpose of visiting Boston on a journey of business, taking his usual affectionate leave of his family, who expected his return in a few days. He proceeded directly to Charlestown, Mass. and took lodgings at Gordon's Inn, remained there several days, frequently walking into Boston for the transaction of business. One evening

at nightfall he remarked to his landlord that he should go over to Boston to attend to some business and return to Charlestown the same night, and immediately went out taking a small trunk in his hand. He did not return, his friends became alarmed, inquiry was made and it was ascertained that his trunk had been found the next morning after his disappearance on the bridge, leading from Charlestown to Boston empty, and with marks of having been forced open with the ferrule of a cane. Starret had left his horse and carriage at Gordon's and was supposed to have a large sum of money in his possession. Suspicions were awakened that he had been robbed and murdered by the innkeeper and the affair created intense excitement in the public mind. Two or three years elapsed before any intelligence was obtained from Starret. When the first information was received of him, he held the rank of Major in the republican army of Mexico. In a letter to his brother he stated that he left Hillsborough with a fixed determination to abandon forever his home and country, that he had himself left the trunk in the position in which it was found, with the design of misleading the public, and that he had walked to Providence, R. I., the same night that he left Gordon's tavern. He subsequently left the Mexican army went to Arkansas and there engaged in trade under the assumed name of William Fisher, sustained a respectable character and acquired a small property there, and in June 1819, terminated his own existence, by blowing out his brains with a pistol at the house of Stephen R. Wilson on the Saline Bayou, about six miles from Red river and from the borders of Texas. Mr. Starret while in the practice of law, was more distinguished for scrupulous integrity, than brilliancy of talent; a better counsellor, than an advocate. He enjoyed the respect of his townsmen and the confidence of his clients. What could have induced this unfortunate man possessing the high esteem of his townsmen, in the successful practice of an honorable and lucrative profession, surrounded by friends and living in the bosom of an amiable and affectionate family, to forsake all in the height of manhood, to lead a hapless life and die an untimely death in a strange land is a profound mystery, reserved to be developed only in the light of eternity. Mr. Starret married Abigail El-

lery Appleton, daughter of Rev. Joseph Appleton of North Brookfield, Mass., by whom he had three children, namely, Dea. Joseph A. Starret of Mont Vernon in this state, born August 31st, 1804. Emily Caroline who married the Rev. David Stowell of Townsend, Mass., born January 20th, 1807, and Alfred Gardiner of Mont Vernon, born October 21st, 1810.

John Burnam, Esq. was a native of Dunbarton, N. H. prepared for college with Rev. Dr. Harris of Dunbarton, graduated at Dartmouth college in 1807, commenced the study of law with the Hon. Samuel Bell of Francestown and completed his preliminary course with David Starret, Esq. at Hillsborough, was admitted to the bar at Amherst in Feb. 1811, came to Hillsborough and succeeded to the professional business of D. Starret, Esq. in April 1812, and continued to reside here, until his death, April 8th, 1826, at the age of forty six years. Mr. Burnam possessed a strong and discriminating mind, expanded and refined by the treasures of ancient and modern literature. He married Sarah W. daughter of the Rev. Joseph Appleton of North Brookfield, Mass., by whom he had five children; four of whom are yet living. David Steele, Esq. son of the late Dea. David Steele of Peterborough was born at Peterborough, Sept. 30th, 1787, graduated at Williams College, 1810, commenced his legal studies in the office of James Walker, Esq., then at Frances-town and finished them under the direction of the Hon. Charles H. Atherton, at Amherst, was licensed to practice law at Amherst in September, 1813, and opened an office in Hillsborough, in October of the same year, where he now resides.

John McFarland was a native of the adjoining town of Antrim, studied first with David Starret Esq., and afterwards with John Burnam, Esq., was admitted to the bar at Amherst, in February 1815, commenced practice at the Upper village in this town the same year, and resided here until his death. He died of consumption in July 1819, aged 31 years. Timothy Darling the eldest son of the Hon. Joshua Darling of Henniker, prepared for college at Pinkerton Academy, Derry, graduated at Harvard College in 1822, studied law with Artemas Rogers, Esq., then at Henniker, commenced

the practice of law in Hillsborough, in 1826, as successor to John Burnam, Esq., and removed from this town in 1827. He has since pursued a course of Theological study and is now settled as pastor of a Presbyterian church in the western part of New-York. Hon. Franklin Pierce has been noticed in a former part of these annals. Albert Baker, Esq., was born at Bow in this state, Feb. 10, 1810, prepared for college at Pembroke Academy, under the direction of the late Hon. John Vose, graduated at Dartmouth College in 1834, and the same year commenced reading law in the office of the Hon. Franklin Pierce at Hillsborough, and completed his preparatory studies with the Hon. Richard Fletcher at Boston, was admitted to the practice of law at the Suffolk bar, Boston in April 1837, and in August of the same year, opened an office in Hillsborough, as successor to the Hon. Franklin Pierce.

Of the above mentioned lawyers, four have practised their profession at the Lower village, one at the Upper village and one at the Bridge village. Two of the number only, Messrs. Steele and Baker, now reside in the town. The number of Physicians who have been settled in the practice of medicine at Hillsborough, is thirteen, viz : William Little, Joseph Munroe, Benjamin Stearns, Joshua Crain, Luther Smith, Reuben Hatch, Mason Hatch, Thomas Preston, Simeon Ingersoll Bard, Nahum Parker Foster, Elisha Hatch, Abraham Hazen Robinson, and Abel Conant Burnam. Dr. William Little was a native of Shirley, Mass., removed to Peterborough, N. H., in childhood with his parents, studied medicine with Dr. Young of Peterborough, practiced a short time in Washington, N. H., and in Dracut, Mass., established himself in Hillsborough, in 1782, where he resided until his death. He was accidentally drowned, Nov. 7th, 1807, aged 55 years. Dr. Little was twice married. His first wife was a Miss Fletcher from Westford, Mass., to whom he was united while resident in Dracut, she died before he removed to Hillsborough, leaving him two children. He was again married in May, 1787, to Ruth, daughter of Dea. Joseph Symonds of Hillsborough, who survived him, with a number of children. Dr. Joseph Munroe was a native of Carlisle, Mass., acquired his professional

education with Dr. Francis Kittredge, of Tewksbury, Mass., commenced the practice of physic, in Hillsborough, about the year 1784. He died Feb., 24th 1798, in the 41st year of his age. Dr. M. was a good physician, of social disposition, and an amiable, and upright citizen. He married Azubah Henry, of Carlisle, who is yet living. By her, he had eight children, five of whom survived him. Dr. Benjamin Stearns was a native of Walpole in this state, where he was born about the year 1770, received his medical education, under the direction of Dr. Johnson of Walpole, located himself in Hillsborough, in the fall of 1797, left this town about the year 1804, and went to reside at Truro in Nova Scotia. He yet resides in that province if living. Dr. Stearns was married in 1801, to Mehitabel, youngest daughter of Dea. Joseph Symonds. Dr. Joshua Crain, was born at Alstead in this state, May 16th, 1776, studied medicine with Dr. Jessaniah Kittredge of Walpole, commenced practice in Hillsborough, in 1802. Died February 1st 1811, aged 34 years. Dr. C. enjoyed the reputation of an able practitioner in his profession, and a useful and worthy citizen. He married Sarah Giddings of Walpole. She survived him with three children. Dr. Luther Smith, son of James Smith, was born at Mont Vernon, N. H., December 27th 1786, studied medicine with his eldest brother, Dr. Rogers Smith, then in the practice of medicine at Mont Vernon, settled as a physician at the Bridge village in Hillsborough, in November 1809, where he continued to reside until his lamented death, August 5th 1824, at the age of 37 years, 7 months and nine days. Dr. S. was married July 22d 1817, to Miss Mary Carlton, daughter of the late John Carlton, Esq. of Mont Vernon, who yet survives him, with two children. His widow has resided at Mont Vernon, since 1837.

The subjoined sketch of the professional and private character of Dr. Smith, has been communicated to the author, by one who knew him intimately. "Dr. Smith, was a man of superior mental endowments. Though he did not enjoy the advantages of a collegiate education ; yet his literary attainments were very considerable. He devoted much of his time to reading, and in the selection, and ap-

preciation of authors, displayed a highly cultivated and correct taste. His memory was uncommonly retentive, his penetration lively, and acute, of solid understanding, and inflexible integrity. In his Judgment of character; he was especially keen, and discriminating and in his principles firm, manly and independent. As a medical practitioner, he had acquired in a good degree, the confidence of the community in his skill and judgment; and was justly reputed an excellent physician. He was fair honorable and liberal, in his practice, entirely free from all affectation, and pretention, disdaining all that parade and artifice under which, the impostors of the profession, endeavor to conceal their ignorance, and mislead the people, and to which, physicians of otherwise fair reputations, are sometimes in their desire to gain practice and popularity, too ready to yield. Applying his strong mind, aided by reading, and observation to the investigation of disease, he was seldom mistaken in his decisions. In short, he was a kind, and affectionate husband, and father, an able physician, an obliging neighbor, a public spirited citizen, an enlightened patriot and a friend of mankind."

Dr. Reuben Hatch, son of Reuben Hatch, was born at Alstead, about the year 1765. His medical instructors were Doctors Joshua Crain of this town, and Elder Carpenter of Alstead, commenced the practice of medicine at Newport, removed to Hillsborough in 1811, and practiced here until 1835, when he removed to Griggsville Illinois, where he now resides. Dr. H. was first married, to Lucy, daughter of Maj. Isaac Andrews, a truly estimable lady, who died Jan. 28, 1833, aged 46, leaving him nine children. He was again married, in September, 1833, to Miss Anna Shatton of Charlestown, Mass., Dr. Mason Hatch, son of Mason Hatch of Alstead, was born in that town, March 3d, 1792, studied his profession, with Dr. Thomas D. Brooks of Alstead, and with his kinsman, Doct. Reuben Hatch, commenced practice in Hillsborough, in January 1817. He continued to reside here until May 1837, when he removed to Bradford and thence to Newport in October 1838, where he now resides. Dr. Hatch was married in March 1818, to Miss Apphia, daughter of Maj. Isaac Andrews.

Dr. Thomas Preston, son of Jedediah Preston was born in Hillsborough, June 23d, 1781, studied with Dr. Luther Smith, commenced practice in Deering, removed to Hillsborough in August 1824, soon after the decease of Dr. Smith, and yet pursues his profession, in this town. Dr. P. was married in April 1827, to Mrs. Mary Hosley, who died August 20th, 1831, having borne him two children one of whom yet survives her. Dr. Simeon I. Bard, was born at Nelson, N. H., June 2d, 1797, fitted for college with the Rev. Truman Baldwin of Charlotte Vermont, entered Middlebury college in 1812, and continued a member of that institution until 1815, was employed for several years as an instructor, studied the medical profession with Dr. Aaron Bard of Fitchburg, Mass. and with Dr. Peter Tuttle of Hancock, N. H., attended lectures at Hanover, commenced practice at Weare, N. H. in 1824, removed to this town the same year. In 1829 he left here and established himself in Francestown. Dr. Nahum P. Foster, a native of Westmoreland, N. H., studied medicine with Dr. George F. Dunbar of that town, and at the medical institution at Hanover, where he received a degree in 1834, commenced practice in Hillsborough in the autumn of 1834, and removed from town in April 1836. He now resides in Unity, N. H. Doct. Elisha Hatch, son of Azel Hatch, Esq. of Alstead, was born in Alstead, July 17th 1796, studied medicine with Doctors Twitchell and Adams at Keene, and attended medical lectures at Hanover, where he graduated in 1824, practiced his profession in his native town from 1824, to 1835, when he removed to Hillsborough and succeeded his uncle Dr. R. Hatch. Dr. A. H. Robinson from Concord resided here from Nov. 1839 to March 1840, when he removed to Salisbury. Dr. Abel C. Burnam, son of Thomas Burnam was born at Milford, N. H. May 2d, 1812, pursued his medical studies with Doctors Elisha Hatch of Hillsborough and Amos Twitchell, of Keene, attended lectures at the medical institutions at Woodstock, Vt. and Hanover, N. H., at the latter of which he graduated in Nov. 1839. In 1840, he began to practice medicine in this town. Of the above list of Physicians one has resided on Bible hill, four have been located at the centre of the town, five at the Bridge village, and

four of them at or near the Turnpike. Three only, Doctors E. Hatch, Preston, and Burnam, now practice here.

Twenty one individuals, have held the commission of Justice of the Peace in Hillsborough, namely, Isaac Andrews, John Dutton, Benjamin Pierce, Calvin Stevens, David Starret, Nathaniel Johnson, Elijah Beard, James Wilson, John Burnham, Timothy Wyman, David Steele, Andrew Sargent, Solomon McNeil, John Grimes, Thomas Wilson, Franklin Pierce, Hiram Monroe, Albert Baker, Amos Flint, Levi Goodale, Henry D. Pierce, Elijah Monroe. Nine of these civil magistrates have deceased, of whom are presented the following particulars. Isaac Andrews was born at Ipswich, Mass. removed to Concord, Mass., and thence to Hillsborough in 1767. He died Dec. 30th, 1796, aged 68. He was one of the fathers of the town, a man of strong sense, an upright and useful citizen. He was one of the founders of the first church in this town in which he held the office of deacon until the infirmities of declining life compelled him to resign. Esq. A. married Lucy Perkins of Ipswich by whom he had 11 children, 8 of whom survived him. John Dutton Esq. was born at Chelmsford, Mass. January 29th, 1750, removed here about the year 1777, was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1791, died Sept. 17, 1813, in the 64th year of his age. He was highly esteemed by his townsmen for his integrity and sound judgment. He married Elizabeth Spaulding, of Chelmsford who survived him and died Feb. 22, 1835, aged 84. He also left several daughters. "The late Gov. Benjamin Pierce was born at Chelmsford, Mass., December 25th, 1757. His father Benjamin Pierce, died when he was but six years of age, leaving a family of ten children of whom he was the seventh. After his father's death he was placed under the care of an uncle Robert Pierce a yeoman of the same town, and continued with him, engaged in agricultural pursuits for more than ten years. He was ploughing in the field on the 19th of April 1775, when news arrived that Americans had been shot down by the British at Lexington. Leaving the field immediately, he took his uncle's gun and equipments and proceeded to Lexington. The British troops

having retreated to the city, he pursued his March towards Boston that night, and the next morning enlisted in Capt. John Ford's company and was stationed for the time, at Cambridge with this company and was in the battle of Bunker hill. He was one of the few who having entered at the commencement, continued in the service to the close of the Revolutionary war, and participated in many of its hard fought actions. His regiment was that of the late Col. John Brooks of Medford, afterwards Governor of Massachusetts, whose personal friendship he long enjoyed. After the peace he was retained in the regiment which went with Gen. Washington to take possession of the city of New York, and continued under arms until the last troops were disbanded at West Point in 1784, having gone through the several grades of common soldier, corporal, sergeant, ensign and leaving the army in command of a company, with the reputation of a brave and meritorious officer. He returned to Chelmsford at the termination of the war, but in consequence of the depreciation of continental paper money, in which he had received pay for about nine years service in the revolution he soon found himself nearly destitute of funds. In 1785 he was employed as an agent to explore a tract of land in New Hampshire, owned by Col. Stoddard, now known as the town of Stoddard in Cheshire county. Having accomplished that business, as he was passing homeward on horseback, down the north-westerly stem of the Contoocook river called the "Branch," he stopped at a log hut in the woods. Here he purchased a tract of land* of about fifty acres of the owner and returned to Chelmsford, where he passed the winter. In the spring of 1786 he returned to the ground he had lately purchased and there in his hut "solitary and alone" commenced the clearing of his farm. Here he cooked for himself, slept upon a blanket and lived as best he might, until his marriage to his first wife which took place in 1787. In the autumn of 1786, upon the recommendation of Gen. Sullivan who had sought out the soldier in the woods he was appointed Brigadier Major of the first

*This tract of land is now the farm of Mr. David Smith in the southwest part of the town. The hut he built in 1786 stood in the rear of Mr. Smith's dwelling house near an elm tree which was then a slender sapling. Gov. P. located himself on the Turnpike about the year 1802.

brigade of militia organized in the county of Hillsborough. For many years he commanded the 26th Regiment which has furnished a Miller, McNeil, and several other highly valued officers and soldiers, who have distinguished themselves in the public service. In 1807, after twenty one years service he retired from active duty in the militia in the capacity of General of the brigade which composed all the regiments, of Hillsborough county. Every one who ever saw Gen. Pierce upon parade, readily gave him the credit of being behind no man in those graces that become a military officer. He was the beau ideal of an officer of the revolution, with the perfect manners of the gentleman, and enough for true discipline of that pride which distinguishes the superior from the subaltern. In 1789, he was first elected representative to the General Court of New Hampshire, for the classed towns of Hillsborough and Henniker, and continued to represent either these towns classed, or Hillsborough singly for thirteen years in succession. He was ever one of the most prominent and influential men in that body. In 1803 he succeeded the Hon. Robert Wallace of Henniker, as councillor for Hillsborough county. His opponent was the late Col. Robert Means, of Amherst. Gen. P. continued in the council from 1803 to 1809, the five last years as the counsellor of Governor Langdon, by whom he was appointed Sheriff of Hillsborough county in 1809. In this office he remained until 1813, when on account of not aiding the newly organized Supreme Judicial Court, he was removed. The next year he was again returned to the council by the people of Hillsborough district, to which office he was annually re-elected until 1818, when he was re-appointed sheriff of the county. From this office he was transferred in 1827, to that of Governor of this state, to which office he was again elected in 1829. His last public office was elector of President in 1832. At his death he was Vice President of the Society of Cincinnati in Massachusetts. From 1775 to 1830, he was almost constantly in some public employment. A little more than two years prior to his decease he was stricken with partial paralysis upon his left side, and encountered intense suffering for a portion of the time until his death. His mental faculties remained in almost uninterrupted vigor, until the

last three or four days of his mortal existence. He died April 1st, 1839, at the age of eighty one years and three months. Gov. Pierce was probably preceded by no man in the state of equally extensive personal popularity. He was a true patriot of the genuine revolutionary stamp. An uncompromising champion of the rights of the people, ever faithful to their interests. He was a man of exemplary liberality. There was no public charity in the town, or neighborhood in which he did not participate. A single instance of his noble generosity, when sheriff of the county, a poor man, a revolutionary soldier, had lain in gaol at Amherst confined for debt, unable to be extricated by the law, because there was no one to pay the expenses of commitment, and the cost of his subsistence for some eight or ten years. Fruitless attempts were made to raise a few hundred dollars by subscription, when Gen. P. first discharging the whole debt from his own pocket, went to the prison, turned the key and told the poor debtor, 'Go breathe the free air.' Gov. P. enjoyed a high reputation for hospitality, his frank and courteous manners made his guests feel easy and at home because they knew and felt that they were welcome." Honored be his memory. Gov. Pierce was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Isaac Andrews, Esq., May 24th, 1787, she died Aug. 13, 1788, in the 21st year of her age, leaving one daughter, Elizabeth A. who married Gen. John McNeil. In 1789 he was again married to Anna, daughter of the late Benjamin Kendrick, of Amherst. She died in December 1838, aged 70, having borne him eight children, namely, Benjamin Kendrick, now a Colonel in the U. S. Army. Nancy M., who married Gen. Solomon McNeil, and died April 27, 1837, aged 44 years, and 5 months. John Sullivan, who died in Michigan in 1825. Harriet B., who married Hugh Jameson, Esq. and died Nov. 24th, 1837, aged 37. Charles Grandison, who died at Utica, N.Y. June 5th, 1828, aged 25. Franklin, now a Senator in Congress from this state. Charlotte, who died in infancy. Henry Dearborn, who resides in this town.

Calvin Stevens, Esq. was a native of Rutland, Mass.,—but removed to Carlisle while in infancy where he was bred. He removed to Hillsborough in 1776. He fought in the revolution, and was

in the battle of Bunker hill. His mind was naturally inquisitive, abounded in anecdotes, and was much improved by reading. He was for many years a town officer and civil magistrate, and in these relations was distinguished for his correctness and integrity. He was a kind husband, a tender father, an humble and consistent christian. He removed from Hillsborough to Mont Vernon, in April 1821, where he died of Apoplexy, February 9th 1834, aged 80. He married Esther Wilkins of Carlisle, Mass., by whom he had 13 children, 10 of whom survived him. David Starret, and John Burnam, have been already noticed, under another head. Elijah Beard, Esquire, was a native of Wilmington, Mass., settled here in 1785. For many years he served his townsmen, in the capacities of town clerk, selectman, and representative in the State Legislature. He died Dec, 5th, 1814, aged 49 years. He married Miss Phebe Jones of Wilmington, who survives him with several children. Nathaniel Johnson, Esq., was a native of Andover, Mass. At an early age he was placed by his father Zebediah Johnson, under the care of a Mr. Buss, who kept a tavern in Milton, N. H., with whom he remained till he was fourteen years of age, when he came to Hillsborough; his father having in the mean time removed here. Soon after, young Johnson enlisted in the army of the revolution for three years. After serving out his term in the war, he resided at Andover, Mass., and at Boston with Hon. William Phillips some years, who aided him in establishing himself in mercantile business. Having amassed considerable property he purchased a farm in this town, on which he erected a splendid mansion, the most expensive dwelling ever built in the town and located here in 1803. He resided in Hillsborough until 1826, when he removed to Northwood, where he died at the residence of his son-in-law, J. Clarke, Esq. Jan. 19th, 1828, at the age of 61 years. Esq. Johnson married Catharine Clarke of Milton, Mass., who died at Hillsborough July 11th, 1827, aged 61. Their children were Maria, who married Rev. Otis Rockwood, now of Woodstock, Conn. Charlotte, who married Jonathan Clarke, Esq. of Northwood, N. H. Nathaniel, who died at the city of Washington, in March, 1818, aged about 21.

George Clarke, who died at Exeter, May 22, 1816, aged 15, while a member of Phillips Academy in that place. He was an uncommonly amiable, interesting and promising youth. Catharine C. who married — Phillips of Lynn, Mass. Sarah M., who married Hon. Edward Kent, of Bangor, the present Governor of Maine. Lydia Elizabeth Parker, who married Samuel Thatcher, Esq. of Bangor, Me. Edward R. of Hartford, Conn. James Wilson, Esq., a native of New Boston, removed here in 1795, possessed the confidence of his townsmen in an eminent degree. For many years he filled the office of first selectman and town clerk, and represented the town in the state Legislature ten years in succession, from 1812 to 1822. His death occurred Feb. 20, 1836, at the age of 66. He married Margaret McClure of Deering in Dec. 1793, who died Feb. 14, 1832, aged 60, having borne him seven children, three only of whom survived him.

Ecclesiastical History.

The early inhabitants of this town, brought with them that reverence for God and religious institutions which so eminently distinguished the pilgrim fathers of New England. Being principally emigrants from the counties of Essex and Middlesex in Massachusetts, they were educated in the faith of the Puritans, and preferred the ancient Congregational mode of church government and discipline. The public worship of God, was early established in this infant colony. From the beginning of the settlement, the people were in the habit of assembling for religious purposes long before they were supplied with regular preaching. The Rev. Messrs. William Houston of Bedford, and Samuel Cotton of Litchfield, visited them occasionally and administered the sacrament. They assisted in the organization of the first church which was gathered Oct. 12th 1769, being the 10th church formed within the present limits of Hillsborough county. John Mead, and Tristram Cheney, were elected deacons the same day. In the autumn of 1772, about ten years after the second settlement of the town was commenced, the church and town united in extending a call to the Rev. Jonathan Barnes to become their pastor, which invitation was accepted and he was in-

ducted into the sacerdotal office, and invested with the pastoral charge of the church and congregation in Hillsborough, Nov. 25th, 1772. Rev. Josiah Bridge of East Sudbury, now called Mayland, Mass., preached his ordination sermon. At a town meeting held the day previous to his ordination, the following provision was made for his support: "Voted unanimously to fix the Rev. Mr. Barnes's salary, that we will give him 30 pounds by way of settlement, 35 pounds a year for the first four years, then 40 pounds a year, until there shall be seventy families in town, and when there shall be seventy families, he is to be entitled to 50 pounds, whether sooner or later until there be 90 families. When there is 90 families, he shall receive 60 pounds, until there is 110 families, when 110 families, he shall receive 66 pounds, 8 shillings and 4 pence a year, which last sum, he shall continue to receive so long as he remain our minister." Until 1779, public worship was usually held in a private house, especially in the winter, and frequently in a barn during the warm season. The Rev. Mr. Barnes, was ordained in a barn. The first Meeting-house was completed in 1779, and the second in 1792.

In 1803, Mr. Barnes having become incapacitated for the regular performance of parochial duties, resigned his office and was dismissed Oct. 19th of that year, having sustained the pastoral relation nearly thirty one years. The Rev. Mr. Barnes was from Marlborough in Massachusetts, where he was born Dec. 26th, 1749. He received his education at Harvard college, where he was graduated in 1770. In the summer of 1803, while riding on horseback a stroke of lightning prostrated him to the ground, stunned him for the time, and so paralyzed his energies, as utterly to disqualify him for the discharge of his pastoral duties. He accordingly relinquished them, and sought in retirement that ease and tranquility, which his enfeebled health required. He survived but two years, and died August 3d, 1805 in the fifty sixth year of his age. He was a man of very respectable talents, possessed a vigorous and discriminating mind, and a lively and well cultivated imagination. He had a strong sonorous voice, and an emphatic delivery. His manners were eminently dignified, polished and agreeable, a model of clerical urbanity.

He was a charitable man with the sons and daughters of need, he was familiarly acquainted, making it an object to seek out the children of sorrow and administer to their necessities, and by such he was regarded with the warmest affection. As a citizen, he exerted a commanding influence, in maintaining social order, preserving unanimity of feeling, and otherwise advancing the prosperity of the town. In his religious belief he is supposed to have been, what was at that time styled an Arminian. He was not a rigid sectarian, but cherished a truly catholic and liberal spirit towards those who differed from him in sentiment. Mr. Barnes was an active and laborious man. For many years after his settlement, his salary was inadequate to the support of his household, and he cheerfully assisted in subduing the wilderness besides administering to the spiritual wants of his charge. He became possessed of the land allotted by Col. Hill, to the first settled minister of the town containing between three and four hundred acres. He toiled assiduously in clearing and preparing for cultivation, these and other lands, which he acquired by purchase, besides laboring much in the newly settled towns in the vicinity which were destitute of a minister. Mr. Barnes was married in 1774, to Miss Abigail Curtis of East Sudbury, Mass, who survived him, and died Dec. 8th, 1838, at the age of 83 years. She was a woman of great excellence of character, and was universally beloved and esteemed.

Their children were, William, born Dec. 25th, 1775, now supposed to reside in Lower Canada. Jonathan, born March 25th, 1778. Joseph Curtis born April 24th, 1780, married and settled here in mercantile business, and died March 13th, 1817. Capt. Samuel, born June 9th, 1782, also a merchant in this town, and died Oct. 21, 1822, leaving a wife and six children. Capt. Barnes was a worthy, industrious and enterprising citizen. Luther born Aug. 1st, 1784. John born Dec. 30th, 1786, died at sea August 21st, 1811. Cyrus born Jan. 14th, 1789, and died at Porto Rico August 9, 1819. Abigail, who married Rev. John Lawton, born May 1st 1791. A daughter, who died in infancy, born Jan. 9, 1793: Henry born June 28th 1794, died May 1st, 1795. Henry, now living in

this town born June 19th, 1796. During Mr. Barnes's ministry the plan of the "half way covenant," was practiced by which, the children of persons not members of the church, were admitted to the rite of baptism. The practice of admitting persons to the church with no particular confession of faith, was also adopted. In this way the discipline of the church was relaxed and at one period, it was on the verge of Unitarianism. But through the strenuous and persevering exertions of some of its influential members who were tenacious Calvinists and the firm and decided orthodox ground, maintained by its second pastor it was in the course of a few years reclaimed to trinitarian congregationalism. In the two years subsequent to the Rev. Mr. Barnes's dismissal, several different clergymen preached here as a stated supply. The Rev. Josiah Moulton preached here a few months in 1804, and an effort was made by the church to settle him which failed through the opposition of a large minority in the town, the vote standing 57 in favor and 54 against his settlement. In June 1805, the town concurred with the church in extending an invitation to Mr. Stephen Chapin, to settle over them in the gospel ministry. Mr. Chapin complied with their invitation, and was ordained June 18th, 1805, with a stipulated salary of \$400,00, per. annum, with four sabbaths to himself each year. On this occasion the exercises were as follows. Introductory prayer by Rev. Ethan Smith of Hopkinton; sermon by Rev. Nathaniel Emmons, D. D. of Franklin, Mass.; consecrating prayer by the Rev. David Sanford of Medway, Mass.; charge by Rev. John Bruce of Mont Vernon; fellowship of the churches by Rev. Moses Bradford of Francestown; concluding prayer by Rev. David Long of Milford, Mass. Through Mr. Chapin's agency the church underwent an important change as to doctrine and practice. The plan of the half way covenant was discontinued. An experimental acquaintance with religion was required as a qualification for church membership and an orthodox confession of faith, and covenant were adopted. The inflexible and uncompromising course pursued by Mr. Chapin, excited the virulent opposition of many whose sentiments were not in unison with his,

and after a protracted controversy resulted in his dismissal May 10th, 1808. He however did not take his final leave of the church and congregation here, until July 30th, 1809, when he delivered his farewell sermon which was published. An extract from the doings of the council which dissolved Mr. C's pastoral relation to the church and town of Hillsborough, will give us a clue at the cause of his dismissal. Mr. Chapin's reasons for asking a dismissal are the following, viz : The town of Hillsborough chose a committee to state their disaffection to him, to propose to him to ask a dismissal and to assure him that if he declined, a town meeting would be immediately called to vote his dismissal. Mr. Chapin believed the causes of their disaffection to be, 1st, The conduct of his ordaining council in refusing to sit in council at his ordination with Rev. William Sleights of Deering. 2. Mr. Chapin's conduct in refusing to baptize children on the half-way covenant, so called, and declining to exchange with ministers who baptize on that ground, in order to accommodate those who wish to have their children so baptized. And above all, 3. The doctrines which he, from time to time preaches, and understands to be the blessed doctrines of the gospel. The committee of the town present before the council, consented that these were in their opinion the reasons which induced the town to determine on Mr. Chapin's dismissal. The principal reason assigned by the committee of the church why it consented to Mr. C's. dismissal, was, his want of health, which rendered it doubtful whether he would be able to perform the duties of a pastor over them. The council which dismissed Mr. C. of which the Rev. Walter Harris, D. D. of Dunbarton was moderator, and the Rev. Ethan Smith of Hopkinton scribe ; approved his conduct, and unanimously recommended him to the churches as an able and faithful minister of Christ, and as a man of irreproachable moral character. The church also, concurred with the council by a recommendation of similar import. The number added to the church during Mr. Chapin's ministry was thirty-eight, though not large, it was an important acquisition. The Rev. Stephen Chapin, D. D., was born in Milford, Mass., November, 4, 1778, graduated at Harvard College in 1804, studied Divinity with

Rev. Nathaniel Emmons, D. D., at Franklin, Mass., was licensed to preach Oct. 10th, 1804 ; ordained at Hillsborough, June 18th, 1805, dismissed May 10th, 1808. Nov. 15th, 1809, was installed over the church in Mont Vernon, N. H., December 21, 1809, was married to Miss Sarah Mosher of Hollis, N. H. Nov. 1818, was dismissed from the church in Mont Vernon, on account of a change in his views respecting the mode and subjects of baptism ; September 8, 1819, was ordained pastor of the Baptist church in North Yarmouth, Maine. In October 1822 was dismissed, by reason of a call to the professorship of Theology in Waterville College, Maine ; was inaugurated in that office August 1823 ; resigned in August 1828, being appointed to the Presidency of the Columbian College, Washington, D. C. ; was inaugurated in that office, March 11, 1829, where he presides with distinguished ability. After being destitute of a settled pastor for more than three years the church in connection with the town presented an invitation to the Rev. Seth Chapin, to become their pastor. Mr. Chapin gave them an affirmative answer, and was ordained Jan. 1, 1812. On this occasion the introductory prayer, was made by Rev. Moses Sawyer of Henniker ; Rev. Ephraim P. Bradford of New-Boston, preached the sermon ; Rev. Reed Paige of Hancock, offered the ordaining prayer, and gave the charge ; Rev. J. M. Whiton of Antrim, gave the Right Hand of Fellowship ; Rev. Lemuel Bliss of Bradford, offered the concluding prayer. During Mr. Chapin's ministry nothing occurred of special importance. He became embarrassed in his pecuniary affairs, and was dismissed June 26th, 1816. Mr. Chapin was born at Mendon Mass., in 1783 ; graduated at Brown University in 1808, and was married about the same year to Miss Mary, daughter of Hon. Judge Bicknell of Barrington, Rhode Island ; acquired his Theological Education at Andover Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1811 ; Jan. 1, 1812, was ordained pastor of the church in Hillsborough ; dismissed June 26th, 1816 ; was installed at Hanover, Mass., April 21, 1819 ; dismissed April 24th, 1824 ; resided at Hunter, N. Y. most of the time from 1824 to 1832 ; was installed in West Granville Mass., in 1833 and dismissed in 1835. His present residence is unknown to the

author. During the interval of more than three years which elapsed after Mr. Chapin's removal, before the fourth pastor of the church commenced his ministerial labors here, several clergymen preached here a few weeks or months, as the case might be. Rev. Jonathan Magee afterwards settled at Brattleborough, Vt., and now at Nashua, N. H., labored here a few months in 1818. About the time of Rev. Seth Chapin's dismissal the town as a town, declined uniting with the church any longer in the support of a minister. Thus the church was thrown upon its own resources. The preaching of the gospel has since been maintained by voluntary subscription. In January 1820, Rev. John Lawton, who had previously spent a few sabbaths here, moved his family into town, and commenced preaching here constantly. In June 1821 he received a call from the church and society connected with it to settle over them in the ministry, which was accepted, and his installation took place Nov. 9, 1821. Rev. J. M. Whiton of Antrim offered the introductory prayer; Rev. Joel Davis then of Barnard Vt., preached the sermon; Rev. Jonathan Nye of Claremont, offered the Installing prayer; Rev. Broughton White of Washington gave the Right Hand of Fellowship; concluding prayer by Rev. Joel Davis.

Mr. Lawton continued in the pastoral relation here until April 22, 1834, when he was dismissed at his own request. His labors here were very successful. Several extensive revivals occurred during his ministry, particularly in 1827, when about seventy were added to the church as the fruits of it. Rev. Ira M. Mead, now of Ypsilanti, Michigan passed a few months in town, while this revival was in progress and greatly assisted the pastor in his labors. Mr. Mead was a native of Hinesburg, Vermont, graduated at the Vermont University, in 1826, and at the Andover Theological Seminary, in 1829. The whole number of accessions to the church while Mr. Lawton was its pastor, was 152, averaging about ten a year. Rev. John Lawton was born in Hardwick, Mass. August 14th, 1780, graduated at Middlebury college in 1805, pursued his preparatory theological studies with Rev. John B. Preston at Newport, Vermont, received his licence to preach in June 1808, was ordained in Windham, Vt. in Oct.

1809, dismissed in Oct. 1819, and immediately began to preach in Hillsborough, was installed here Nov. 7, 1821, dismissed April 22, 1834. Since his dismissal here, Mr. Lawton has been engaged principally as a home missionary, but is now itinerating in New England as an agent for an educational institution in Illinois. His family yet continues to reside in this town. He was married at Cambridge, N. Y. Sept. 14, 1806, to Miss Sarah W. Davis, then of Sharon, Vt. who died January 22, 1824, aged 36. He was again married Feb. 9, 1826, to Miss Abigail, only daughter of the late Rev. Jonathan Barnes.

Mr. Lawton's successor in the ministry, Rev. Milton Ward, commenced preaching here, in April 1834, and was consecrated to the pastoral office, 23d July of that year by an ecclesiastical council consisting of pastors, and delegates from ten churches. The services of the ordination were as follows ; Invocation and reading the scriptures by Rev. Orlando G. Thatcher of Bradford ; Introductory prayer by Rev. Jacob Scales of Henniker ; sermon by Rev. Calvin Cutler of Windham, N. H. ; consecrating prayer by Rev. Joseph Merrill of Acworth ; charge by Rev. John M. Whiton of Antrim ; right hand of fellowship by Rev. Austin Richards of Francestown ; Address to the people by Rev. Silas Aiken of Amherst ; concluding prayer by Rev. David Stowell of Goffstown. A change in his views respecting the nature and constitution of the christian church, led to his dismissal by a mutual council, Nov. 10th, 1835. Mr. Ward is a native of Plymouth, N. H., graduated at Dartmouth College in 1825, studied medicine at Hanover, and graduated at the Medical Institution there in 1829, was a practitioner of Medicine several years at Windham, N. H. ; but afterwards abandoned that profession, and studied Theology with Rev. Calvin Cutler at Windham, and settled in Hillsborough soon after he was licensed to preach. A few weeks subsequent to his dismissal here, he was ordained by Bishop Griswold, as a minister of the Episcopal Church, in which capacity he has since officiated at Lynn, Mass., Blandford, Mass., and at Portsmouth, R. I., where he now resides. The church being again destitute of a minister, procured Rev. Seth Farnsworth to

labor with them one year, at the expiration of which, he accepted a call to settle over the Church and society here, and was installed Nov. 23, 1836, when the following order of exercises took place : Rev. Jubilee Wellman of Warner offered the introductory prayer, Rev. John M. Whiton of Antrim, preached the sermon from Philippians 4, 5 ; Rev. Jacob Scales of Henniker, offered the installing prayer ; Rev. Archibald Burgess of Hancock, delivered the charge ; Rev. O. G. Thatcher of Bradford, expressed the fellowship of the churches ; Rev. Moses Kimball of Hopkinton, addressed the church and society, and offered the concluding prayer. In 1836, a new meeting house was erected at the Bridge village, for the use of the first Congregational Church and Society. It was opened for public worship Nov. 23d, in connection with Mr. Farnsworth's Installation. Rev. Mr. Farnsworth preached the sermon on this occasion, and Rev. A. Burgess of Hancock offered the dedicatory prayer. This house stands a little west of the centre of business at the bridge : is exceedingly commodious, elegantly finished, and is an ornament to the flourishing village where it is located. When Mr. F. was settled it was the understanding that he should preach one, alternately, Sabbath at the bridge, and the next at the centre, &c. His labors here were abundant and salutary, but in the full tide of his usefulness, when the affections of the church and society were fixed on him with no common degree of ardor, he was suddenly removed by death, March 26th 1837. While Mr. F. was pastor of the church, five persons were added. In July 1837, this bereaved people, obtained the ministerial services of Rev. Samuel G. Tenney. He preached his first sermon to this people July 16. After laboring here nearly one year he was installed pastor of the church and society, July 4, 1838, order of services as follows : Invocation and reading the scriptures, by Rev. Stephen Rogers of Bradford ; Introductory prayer by Rev. Joel Davis, then of Washington ; Sermon by Rev. Nathaniel Bouton of Concord, from 2 Timothy 4, 2 ; Installing Prayer by Rev. Peter Holt of Deering ; charge by Rev. John Lawton former pastor ; fellowship of the churches by Rev. John M. Whiton of Antrim ; address to the church and people by

Rev. Jacob Scales of Henniker, and concluding prayer by Rev. Nathaniel T. Folsom of Francestown. This church has now become two bands. Ever since the dedication of the Meeting house at the bridge, it has been in contemplation to establish constant preaching in the congregational church there, when a favorable period should arrive; the death of Mr. Farnsworth probably retarded this event. In the spring of 1839, a competent salary was raised and a church organized May 29, 1839, by the name of the "Hillsborough Bridge congregational church." It consisted at its formation of 26 members, dismissed by letter from the first church. The present number of communicants is 70. Rev. S. G. Tenney was retained as pastor of this church. In October 1839, Tristram Sawyer, Davison Russell, Samuel Morrison, and Frederick M. Symonds, were elected deacons of this church. Rev. Samuel Gilman Tenney its pastor was born at Rowley, Mass., April 12, 1793, fitted for college at Union Academy, Plainfield; graduated at Dartmouth College in 1823; studied his profession with Rev. Walter Chapin, D. D., at Woodstock, Vt.; was ordained pastor of the Congregational church at Lyndon Vermont in July 1825; was dismissed in Jan. 1831; from May 1831, to Nov. 1834, was stated supply at Bakersfield, Vt., without installation; was installed at Waitsfield, Vt. in July 1835; and dismissed in July 1837, and came to Hillsborough, the same month. After the formation of the Bridge church the old church assumed the name of "Hillsborough Centre Church." The present number of its members is 106. Charles Baldwin, Stephen Richardson, and Othri Crosby, were elected deacons of this church, June 20, 1839. A new house of worship was erected in 1839, for the use of this church and society, and dedicated Dec. 4th, of that year. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Stephen Rogers of Bradford. Rev. Edward Cleaveland, who had been settled in Rochester, N. H., labored with the church and society several months in 1839. Rev. John B. M. Bailey, now of Attleborough, Mass., and Rev. Henry White, also preached for them sometime, while they were destitute of a settled minister. In Feb. 1840, Rev. George W. Adams, began his clerical labors and preached

first to this people, Feb. 23. In March following he received and accepted an invitation to settle over them as their pastor and was installed October 21, 1840. Rev. Samuel Gilman Tenney of the Bridge Church, invoked the Divine blessing, and read select portions of scripture; Rev. David P. Smith offered the introductory prayer; Rev. B. B. Beckwith of Castine Maine, preached the sermon from 1 Cor. 1: 23, 24; Rev. Peter Holt of Deering offered the Installing prayer; Rev. John M. Whiton of Castine, delivered the charge; Rev. S. G. Tenney gave the Right Hand of Fellowship; Rev. D. P. Smith addressed the church and society; Rev. Stephen Rogers of Bradford offered the concluding prayer. The whole number that were added to the church from the settlement of Rev. Stephen Chapin to 1839, a period of 34 years amounts to 223. Rev. George W. Adams, the present pastor of the Centre Church, was born in Limerick, Me., May 16, 1808, prepared for college at the Limerick Academy, graduated at Bowdoin College in 1835; and at the Theological Seminary at Bangor Maine, in 1837, was ordained pastor of the Congregational church in Brooksville, Maine, Oct. 25, 1837, dismissed February 4, 1840, and came to Hillsborough the same month.

Rev. Seth Farnsworth the sixth pastor of the Congregational church in Hillsborough was born in Charlestown, N. H., June 14th 1795. He became the subject of serious religious impressions in 1816, during a revival of religion in the adjoining town of Claremont. Having been educated by his father to believe the doctrine of the universal salvation; the conflict between his convictions of duty and his inclinations and preconceived opinions was protracted and severe. But grace finally triumphed, and he gave up all for Christ. Being ardently desirous of more extensive usefulness in the service of his Redeemer, he commenced a course of study preparatory for the Christian ministry, at Union Academy, Plainfield, in the spring of 1817. He entered Dartmouth College in August 1818, and received the honors of that Institution in 1822. In the various departments of study, he maintained a very respectable standing. Though his excessive diffidence, in some measure concealed his intellectual

strength, and prevented his talents from being fully appreciated. During the two years succeeding his graduation, he pursued the study of Theology under the direction of President Tyler. Having received license to preach, he labored two years in the service of the Vermont Missionary Society with great acceptance in several of the destitute towns in that state. In the autumn of 1824 he received a call from the church and society in Raymond and was ordained Nov. 3, of that year and dismissed April 17, 1834. During the ten years of his ministry at Raymond, his labors were crowned with four seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, when large accessions were made to his church. In 1834 he received a call from the church in Essex and another from the church in Morristown Vermont. He preferred not to settle for the present in either place but engaged to supply the church in Essex for one year. Having received a call to settle in Hillsborough, he was installed Nov. 23, 1836. After a few months of earnest labor, he sickened suddenly of a lung fever, and after a few months of earnest profession, and the assiduities of an affectionate people, he died 26th March 1837. As he drew near his end, every christian grace seemed to be called into lively exercise, faith, hope, love and joy filled his soul. A few of the many expressions of holy joy which escaped his lips as he neared the heavenly world, are here recorded, and they will convey some idea of his peaceful and triumphant departure. Repeatedly in the extacy of joy would he exclaim, "Glory, glory to God, Hallelujah—Salvation, the Lord reigneth. Praise him, Oh praise him." After a short interval of repose, he clasped his hands and said, "Oh my God, how sweet, how sweet are the employments of Heaven. Blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God, forever and ever, Amen." Longing to depart and be with Christ he said, "Oh my soul when will you be at rest—come blessed Saviour, O come, come, Oh, that I had wings I would fly, yes blessed Jesus, I would fly to thine arms. Again raising his hands and eyes upward, he exclaimed, "Oh my Saviour, my love, my dove, my undefiled, what sweet words, O my God, how sweet. On Sabbath morning, (the day he died,) after a few moments of repose, he opened his eyes and beholding Mrs. F.

with their youngest child in her arms, standing by his bed he raised his hands and said, "that dear child I love. My dear, I have faith to believe that the Covenant promise will be fulfilled in that child, I do believe, yes, I do believe that that child will become a child of grace." At another time he lay for some minutes as though listening to the sound of distant music. He seemed to try to catch the sound and to tune his voice to join in an anthem of praise. On opening his eyes he said, "O my friends, I thought I was in glory, I have just come from the world of bliss, what happiness what unspeakable happiness to sing with angels, O, could I mount up with angels, I would sing with them an anthem of praise." After he had taken his leave of his family and friends, he lay some time in a gentle repose. Mrs. F. asked him if he would take some drink. He opened his eyes and with a smile of joy on his countenance, he said, "Oh my dear, I have had such views of glory as I never had before. I have been swimming, swimming, yea I have been swimming in an ocean of bliss." On Sabbath morning a neighboring minister and relative who preached for him that day, inquired of him just before going to the house of God, if he had any message which he wished him to bear to his people. Message said he, yes I have a message for my dear people, "Tell my beloved people that my message to them, is that they receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save their souls, and that they be doers of the word, and not hearers only," he would have added more, but his strength failed him. He continued in the same happy frame of mind till half past 3 o'clock, when his immortal spirit was released from its clay tenement. As a minister Mr. Farnsworth was earnest, laborious, and faithful. The great truths which he believed and taught, dwelt richly in his own heart. Though his talents were more useful than brilliant, yet he was always interesting and frequently very eloquent in the pulpit. As a christian, a minister, a husband, a father and a friend, he was uniformly guided by the principles of Christian love. The kindness and meekness of his heart, his amiable deportment, and his humble walk with God, won the esteem and attachment of all classes in the community. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Rev. Ozias Silsby son of Henry Silsby, was born in Windham, Conn., in June 1761, removed to Acworth, N. H., with his parents in early life, graduated at Dartmouth College in 1785, studied Divinity with the Rev. George Leslie of Washington, was licensed to preach the Gospel, and labor, for some time in Henniker, N. H., and at Wells, Maine, but was never settled in the ministry; his feeble health unfitting him for pastoral duty. He subsequently resided in various places, was carrier of the U. S. Mail fourteen years from Chester to Exeter. In 1814 he removed from Warner to this town, and continued to reside here until his death, Feb. 28th, 1833 aged 72 years. He was twice married, first to Miss Mary Dearborn of Chester, and after her death, to Miss Frances Congdon Jones of Concord, a native of Claremont. Ten children survived him.

The Deacons of the Congregational church from its organization in 1769, to its division in 1839, were as follows: John Mead, Tristram Cheney, Isaac Andrus, Joseph Symonds, Paul Cooledge, Isaac Andrews, Jun. Jacob Spaulding, Joel Stow, George Dascomb, seven of whom have deceased. John Mead came to Hillsborough from Reading Mass. in 1766, and died here in August 1811, aged about 81. He endured all the privations of a pioneer in the wilderness, was a pious and exemplary man and adorned his profession. Tristram Cheney is believed to have been from Sudbury Mass. He resided in Antrim just beyond the limits of Hillsborough, whence he removed to Marlow, where he died. For Isaac Andrews, Sen., see "Justices of the Peace." Dea. Joseph Symonds was born and bred in Middleton, Mass., removed to Hillsborough in 1774, and died here March 30, 1809, aged 77. Dea. Symonds was a prominent man in the early history of the town. He possessed a strong mind, and solid judgment; was a highly intelligent and useful citizen, and deservedly esteemed by his townsmen. Dea. S. was one of the fathers of the church, and maintained a highly exemplary christian character. He married Lucy Kimball, of Boxford, Mass., who died Aug. 21, 1803, aged 69, having borne him thirteen children, ten of whom survived him. Dea. Paul Cooledge son of Nathaniel Cooledge, sen. was born in Weston, Mass., removed here with his parents

in 1775, and died Aug. 20, 1835, aged 84. He married Miss Martha Jones, who died July 21, 1835, aged 78. Deacon Jacob Spaulding was a native of Chelmsford, Mass., removed here in 1790 and died May 14, 1838, aged 70. He left a wife and seven children. Dea. Joel Stow was born at Marlborough Mass. Nov. 19, 1766. He removed to Hillsborough when about 21 years of age, and resided here until his death, Oct. 17th 1838, aged 72. Deacon Stow was an energetic and useful citizen. For several years he served the town as one of their selectmen; and represented them in the State Legislature four years from 1803. He loved the institutions of the Gospel, and did much towards sustaining them. He was ever active in supporting an Evangelical ministry, and staying up the hands of his pastor. He contributed liberally to the benevolent objects of the day; in his will bequeathing them \$500 out of an estate of three thousand dollars, which made the amount of his benefactions at different periods equal to \$1000. The memory of the just is blessed. Dea. Stow married Miss Rebecca Howe of Hillsborough, April 10th 1794, who died March 19th 1805. He was again married Feb. 14, 1806, to Miss Elizabeth Barnes of Marlborough, Mass. Two of five children survive him.

Dea. Isaac Andrews, Jun., son of Dea. Isaac Andrews was born at Ipswich, Mass. Nov. 11th, 1755, removed here from Carlisle, Mass. in 1767. He is yet living in a vigorous and healthful old age; his mental faculties unimpaired. He fought in the battle of Bunker hill, and preserves a minute and vivid recollection of the events of that memorable day, which he relates in a very interesting manner. Maj. Andrews has an intimate knowledge of the scenes which have transpired in Hillsborough, state of N. H., and of its inhabitants, during the seventy-four years he has been a resident here. Dea. Geo. Dascomb was born in Lunenburg, Mass. Oct. 16th 1764; emigrated to Milton, N. H., with his parents when he was two years old; removed to Hillsborough, in 1791.

In May 1813, a Baptist society was organized by a number of individuals, cherishing the peculiar views of that denomination. For seven years from this time, they were supplied with preaching but

one sabbath to each month ; during this period they employed the labors of different ministers. The Rev. Messrs. Willard of Dublin, Higbee of Alstead, Elliott of Mason, Ambrose of Sutton, and Cummings of Sullivan, all ministered here occasionally. In the year 1819, they commenced holding meetings on the sabbath, when destitute of the preaching of the gospel, which were conducted by themselves as meetings for mutual prayer and conference. Aug. 31, 1828, the first Baptist church was gathered, Rev. Elijah Willard of Dublin preached the sermon. This church at its organization consisted of sixteen members, seven males and nine females. James Ayer, and Fisher Gay were appointed deacons. From 1820 to 1828, most of their preaching was by Rev. Charles Cummings. In 1828, he moved his family into the town, and commenced preaching constantly for this people. Until 1828, their meetings were held either in school houses or private dwellings. In November of that year, a house of worship sixty feet by forty-five which had been erected for their use was dedicated. Rev. Joseph Elliot, then of Mason, now of Alton, Illinois, preached the dedication sermon. In 1831, Rev. Mr. Cummings returned with his family to Sullivan. He is now pastor of the Baptist church in Swanzev. In 1831, the church became connected with the Milford association of churches. After the dismissal of the Rev. Mr. Cummings, the church had no permanent supply for several years. In 1834, the Rev. John Peacock labored with the church five months, during which time there was an interesting revival and about forty were added to the church. In 1835, Rev. Moses Cheney by invitation of the church and society moved his family here, and became their stated minister. After remaining in the place about fourteen months, he left in March 1836. The same year Rev. John Atwood formerly of New Boston was invited by the church and society to become their pastor. He accepted and commenced his labors statedly, on the first of Feb. 1837, but never received the pastoral care of the church. For certain reasons resting principally with the leading members, the church has never admitted any person to assume a pastoral connexion with them. After continuing his labors with the church and society three years, Mr. Atwood was dismissed by the church in Feb. 1840, but continued to preach for the society. The first church remained destitute until the first of Feb. 1841, when the Rev. Philip Chamberlain, from Campton, N. H. moved here and yet ministers to this church.

On the 5th of November 1840, the Independent Baptist Church was embodied by the advice and assistance of an Ecclesiastical council, convened for the purpose. The sermon on the occasion was delivered by the Rev. J. P. Appleton of Wilton, and the Fellowship of the Council was presented by Rev. Phinehas Richardson of Hollis. The Rev. John Atwood holds the relation of pastor to this church, which consisted when constituted of twenty members. And

thirteen have since been added. The whole number of persons baptized in connection with the Baptist interest in Hillsborough, since the formation of the first church in 1820 is 105. The number added by letter is 56; dismissed to other churches 43, expunged from the records 34, excluded 13, died 13. The present number of Baptist professors in town is about 100.

Rev. John Atwood, A. M., the pastor, of the "Independent Baptist Church, in Hillsborough," was born in Hudson, N. H. October 3d 1795, prepared for college with Rev. Daniel Merrill of Hudson, was a member of Waterville College, Maine, from 1820 to 1824; was ordained pastor of the 1st Baptist Church in New Boston in May 1825, dismissed in Feb. 1835 and from that time labored in Frances-town until his removal to Hillsborough in Feb. 1837. A methodist church was organized in 1838, and a neat and commodious edifice of public worship erected for their accommodation in 1839. This house was dedicated Oct. 2d, of that year. Dedication sermon by Rev. Jared Perkins, then of Nashua.

As a matter not altogether uninteresting to the inhabitants of Hillsborough, it is thought proper to append a list of the representatives of the town in the state legislature; town clerks, moderators of the annual town meetings and selectmen from the first town meeting to the present time. The year at the left hand of the name denotes the time of election; the figures at the right, the period of continuance in office by elections in immediate succession.

Representatives.

Until 1792, Hillsborough was classed with Henniker; neither town of itself being sufficiently populous to entitle it to a representative till that year. John Dutton, William Wallace of Henniker, and Benjamin Pierce, represented the towns, while thus classed together. Hillsborough has been represented by the following individuals since 1792.

1792, Benjamin Pierce,	11.	1829, Franklin Pierce,	4.
1803, Joel Stow,	4.	1833, Hiram Monroe,	6.
1807, Elijah Beard.	5.	1839, Albert Baker, }	2.
1812, James Wilson,	10.	1839, Elijah Monroe, }	
1822, Andrew Sargent,	4.	1841, Albert Baker, }	
1826, Thomas Wilson,	3.	1841, Henry D. Pierce. }	

In 1839, it was ascertained that the town was entitled to two representatives.

Town Clerks.

1772, Isaac Andrews,	3.	1794, Calvin Stevens,	11.
1775, Joseph Symonds,	1.	1805, Elijah Beard,	3.
1776, Samuel Bradford,*		1808 Andrew Sargent,	8.
1777, William Pope,	1.	1816, James Wilson,	7.
1778, Timo. Bradford,	1.	1823, Andrew Sargent,	7.
1779, Samuel Bradford, Jr.,	1.	1830, Thomas Wilson,	2.
1780, William Pope,	1.	1832, Jonathan Beard,	3.
1781, Isaac Andrews,	5.	1835, Amos Flint,	6.
1786, John Dutton,	7.	1841, Jotham Moore,	
1793, Enos Towne,*	1.		

* Capt. B. died in August 1776, and William Pope was elected his successor, as first selectman and town clerk, for the remainder of the year. Enos Towne died in 1795 and John McColly succeeded him for the residue of that year.

Moderators of the Annual Town Meetings.

1774, Timothy Wilkins,	1.	1811, Benjamin Pierce,	3.
1775, Joseph Symonds,	1.	1814, Nehemiah Jones,	1.
1776, Daniel McNeil,	1.	1815, John Burnam,	8.
1777, Andrew Bixby,	1.	1823, Luther Smith,	1.
1778, Joseph Symonds,	4.	1824, John Burnam,	1.
1782, James McColley,	1.	1825, Reuben Hatch,	3.
1783, Joseph Symonds,	9.	1828, Franklin Pierce,	6.
1792, Benjamin Pierce,	9.	1834, Amos Flint,	1.
1801, Otis Howe,	1.	1835, Thomas Wilson,	1.
1802, Benjamin Pierce,	1.	1836, Nahum Parker Foster,	1.
1803, John Dutton,	2.	1837, Hiram Monroe,	4.
1805, Benjamin Pierce,	5.	1841, Albert Baker,	
1810, David Starret,	1.		

Selectmen.

1772, Isaac Andrews,	3.	James Eaton,	6.
John McColley,	3.	1795, Samuel Bradford,	2.
Daniel McNeil,	3.	1797, George Dascomb,	2.
Isaac Baldwin,	3.	1799, Elijah Beard,	9.
William Pope,	3.	1800, Jacob Spaulding,	6.
1775, Joseph Symonds,	1.	1805, Andrew Sargent,	11.
Samuel Bradford,s'r.*	1.	1806, Silas Dutton,	2.

	John McClintock,	1.	1808, David Starret,	1.
1776,	Asa Dresser,	1.	Joseph Curtis Barnes,	2.
	Archibald Taggart,	1.	1809, Timothy Wyman,	2.
	William Pope,	2.	1810, James Wilson,	13.
1777,	John McColley,	1.	1811, Joel Stow,	1.
	Moses Steel,	1.	1812, Samuel Barnes,	1.
1778,	Timothy Bradford,	1.	1813, Luther Smith,†	1.
	Sam'l Bradford, Jr.	2.	1814, Samuel Gibson,	2.
	Daniel McNeil,	1.	1816, Joel Stow,	5.
1779,	Ammi Andrews,	1.	Jonathan Tilton,	2.
	James McColley,	1.	1818, George Little,	2.
1780,	William Pope,	1.	1820, William McClintock,	1.
	Calvin Stevens,	2.	1821, Alexander McCoy,	1.
	Jacob Flint,	1.	Peter Codman,	2.
1781,	Isaac Andrews,	7.	1822, Joel Stow,	1.
	John Dutton,	12.	1823, Andrew Sargent,	7.
	Archibald Taggart,	2.	Reuben Hatch,	1.
	John McClary,	1.	Solomon McNeil,	1.
1782,	The three first of the		1824, Joel Stow,	2.
	5 elected in 1782 con-		Thomas Wilson,	8.
	stituted the board in		1826, Benjamin Tuttle,	2.
	1782.		1828, Hiram Monroe,	1.
1783,	Isaac Andrews, Jr.	1.	1830, Peter Codman,	1.
1784,	James McColley,	1.	Isaac Jones Cooledge,	1.
1785,	William Taggart,	1.	1831, Jonathan Beard,	4.
1786,	John Bradford,	1.	1832, Levi Goodale,	2.
	William Symonds,	1.	Samuel C. Dutton,	1.
1787,	William Taggart,	1.	1833, Joseph Phipps,	3.
1788,	Isaac Andrews, Jr.	1.	1834, Amos Flint,	7.
	Paul Cooledge,	1.	1835, Levi Goodale,	4.
1789,	John McColley,	2.	1836, Ransom Bixby,	2.
1790,	John McClary,	2.	1838, James Currier,	1.
1791,	Isaac Andrews,	2.	1839, Daniel Brown,	1.
1792,	John McColley,	3.	Jotham Moore,	
1793,	Enos Towne,†	1.	1840, Hiram Monroe,	
	Solomon Andrews,	1.	1841, Sandy Smith.	
1794,	Calvin Stevens,	11.		

* Capt. Samuel Bradford died in Aug. 1776, and William Pope was his successor, for the rest of the year. † Enos Towne died in the year 1793, and John McColley was chosen to serve in the offices of town clerk, and first selectman, for the rest of the year. ‡ Dr. Luther Smith resigned the office of selectman, on account of its interfering with his professional business and Samuel Gibson was elected in his stead for the remainder of the year.



